



Are You Prepared?

# Safeguarding Your Valuables: Checklist

Courtesy of Preferred Insurance Services, Inc.

You may have little or no time to protect your valuables in a flood, earthquake or other disaster. By taking simple steps now, you can safeguard your treasured belongings and information from damage or loss.

The first step is to identify what you have. Go through your home to find your treasures. Use the checklist below to begin taking stock of your valuables.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Vital records and certificates (birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, child custody, death)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport, driver's license, Social Security card and other identification documents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property leases, deeds, mortgages, titles (auto, home) and other legal records
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial records, including recent tax returns, copies of pay stubs and bank account statements, and debit and credit card numbers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance policies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wills, living wills and powers of attorney
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical records, including prescription medicines, medical conditions, medical provider contact information and copies of health insurance/Medicare/Medicaid cards

<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe deposit box information and keys
<input type="checkbox"/>	Records of passwords and personal identification numbers (PINs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family photos, keepsakes, jewelry or other mementos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photographic or data inventory of valuables (photos, videos, CD/flash drive)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

### How to Protect Your Valuables

Once you complete your checklist, there are a number of simple no-cost or low-cost steps you can take to protect your valuables:

- Create a photographic record or inventory of your valuables and store it in a safe deposit box or other off-site location. Consider keeping a copy on a CD or flash drive in your disaster kit, so that you can provide it to your insurance company following a loss; this will allow you to start the insurance/recovery process more quickly.
- Scan important records such as vital records, medical records and financial documents, and save the files on disks or flash drives. You may also want to password-protect the data you have stored in case of loss or theft. Store the backup records in a safe deposit box or other off-site location.
- If you have too many records or no way to scan/copy them, store them in a flood/fireproof home safe or a safe deposit box. Also, consider giving backup copies of important documentation to family members to store for you.
- If you have valuable items stored in a basement, move them to a higher location to avoid water damage.
- Include any readily accessible records, such as medical records and medical contact information, in your disaster kit.
- In some cases, you may be able to protect valuables in waterproof containers available in sporting goods or hardware stores. For smaller items, a flood/fireproof home safe may provide temporary protection.
- Take precautions to protect yourself from identity theft when you create backup systems to store critical information.

In addition to insuring your home, Preferred Insurance Services, Inc. is committed to helping you and your loved ones stay safe when disaster strikes. If you would like more information on developing a family emergency plan or building a disaster supply kit, please contact us at (703) 359-5910 or <https://www.preferins.com/> today.