

Insurance In The Home Office

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Making the move from the corporate world to your work from home job means you might have lost various benefits you used to receive. Insurance is a very important part of managing your work from home risks. If you don't already have insurance taken care of we recommend speaking to your broker or insurance company so they can properly assess your needs and requirements. Until then here are a few of the work from home insurance basics to get you thinking.

Health Insurance

Just as with all forms of insurance, health insurance can be costly especially when insuring a large family. Once again your insurance broker or company can provide the best advice on plans to suit your income. If you're busy digging yourself out of a financial hole and simply have to cut corners to survive don't skimp on all forms of insurance. Consider taking out so called "catastrophe" insurance which will only insure you against big bills such as a hospital stay or operation. Another similar option available is hospital insurance, which covers you against any illness or injury that requires hospital treatment.

Long-Term Disability

When starting a home business on a shoe string many entrepreneurs forget long-term disability coverage. This form of insurance is provided by many large firms and a small number of successful small ones. Long-term disability insurance insures you against a prolonged absence from work due to illness, injury or pregnancy. It can be pretty expensive but depending on your risk profile well worth it.

If you are already healthy this is a great time to insure, unfortunately finding insurance with a pre-existing condition is almost impossible. If you are truly starting your work from home business on a shoe string then this insurance might have to wait a while. But don't forget it totally, being insured against an extended absence could save your home business from bankruptcy.

Life Insurance

If you have a private life insurance policy that wasn't linked to your old job - great you're covered. If your life insurance policy was included somewhere in your old jobs pay check, read on.

Having a family or dependents makes life insurance an essential part of your risk coverage. Just as with all insurance we recommend you speak to your broker or insurance company about the policy that best fits your financial situation. However bear in mind that people often tend to under insure. There are many hidden costs in the untimely death of any family member especially if that family member was the bread winner. Try taking into account every possible expense that might arise from your untimely death when selecting your policy, does your partner currently have a job and if not how much will it cost to make them employable again for example.

Finally remember that your life insurance rates will depend on your risk factor. The more risk you have in your life the higher your premiums are likely to be, now might be a great time to quit smoking and start cycling!

Renters Insurance

If you're currently renting your home, apartments, condo, flat or room you most likely don't have insurance. Damage or loss to your business equipment from theft, fire, flood or other natural disaster could send your home business right down the drain.

That said, insurance is a tricky business. Insurance companies are always looking to devalue your assets when you make a claim or even prove that you never owned them in the first place. Keeping detailed documentation of all your major assets will ensure you get the highest payout possible. Documentation includes receipts and warranties of all your assets, be extra cautious and photograph your assets in your house. Remember to store all your documentation at a friend's house or at the bank, its no good in your desk if the house burns down.

Also know your policy, read the fine print to make sure you know exactly what it covers, yes read the fine print. Some policies might require you to itemize your assets or pay additional premiums above and below a certain claim