

CAPITAL INSURANCE AGENCY OF WISCONSIN

Your engagement ring is more than just a piece of jewelry. It's a reminder that you've found your person and you're ready to build a life together.

But on the practical side, an engagement ring is a big financial investment. Even if you're careful, life has a way of serving up surprises. Your ring could slide down the kitchen sink while washing dishes... get swept away in the waves at the beach... get stolen... or even be eaten by the family dog. (Trust us – we've seen it all.)

ENGAGEMENT RING AND OTHER JEWELRY INSURANCE: 4 COMMON QUESTIONS

Is my ring covered under my homeowners or renters insurance?

That depends on how much it's worth. In most cases, standard homeowners and renters insurance only cover theft of jewelry to a specific dollar amount – that's known as the "sublimit." Most companies will cover a single piece of jewelry up to \$3,000.

However, many engagement rings are worth more than \$3,000. According to The Knot's 2017 Real Weddings study, the average couple spends \$6,351 on a new engagement ring (up 25% from \$5,095 in 2011).

With that in mind, it's a smart decision to consider insuring your engagement ring on its own. (In insurance lingo, this is known as "scheduling.") When you schedule a piece of jewelry, such as an engagement ring, you can insure your jewelry based on its cost or appraised value, rather than limiting coverage to the \$3,000 sublimit associated with a homeowners or renters policy.

How much does it cost to insure an engagement ring?

On average, ring insurance costs \$1-2 for every \$100 your ring is worth. That means an insurance policy for a \$5,000 ring would typically cost around \$50-100 per year.

Should I get my ring appraised?

Always save the receipt for your ring and any appraisals you've had done on it. This can give you an idea of how much you should insure your ring for, as well as document any unique identifiers for your ring if it's ever lost or stolen. An appraisal will typically look at the ring's stone shape and quality (measured by carat weight, color, cut and clarity); metal type and fineness; and any identifying marks, such as an engraved serial or certification number.

Generally speaking: If your ring is worth less than \$2,000 and/or newer than seven years old, then you don't need to get it appraised.

However, fine jewelry usually appreciates in value over time, so reappraise your ring periodically after that seven-year mark to make sure you're still insuring it for the right amount.

Do I need to clean or inspect my ring?

Losing a ring – or losing a stone from the setting – is a more common reason for filing an insurance claim than having the ring stolen. Many times, accidents can be prevented by having your ring properly cleaned and inspected. A jewelry professional can tell if the prongs are getting loose and help with small repairs before it becomes a bigger problem.