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[Monsoon floods leave trail of damage: What your car and home insurance actually covers](#)



Homeowners should maintain a digital inventory of valuable possessions, preserve invoices for high-value items wherever possible, and keep policy documents readily accessible

From submerged cars in Gurugram to waterlogged homes in several flood-hit regions, the ongoing spell of heavy rain has once again highlighted the financial risks posed by India's monsoon. As images of vehicles floating through flooded streets and houses inundated with water flooded social media, insurance experts say many of these losses may be covered, but only if policyholders have the right type of insurance. Comprehensive motor insurance and home insurance typically cover damage caused by floods and other natural catastrophes, though exclusions and policy conditions still apply.

For vehicles, waterlogging poses one of the biggest risks. "While external damage caused by flooding is covered under an Own Damage motor policy, policyholders should also consider add-on covers such as the Engine Protector, which provides coverage for internal engine damage caused by water ingress," said Amarnath Saxena, Chief Technical Officer – Commercial, Bajaj General Insurance.

"In cases where a vehicle is swept away or the cost of repairs exceeds approximately 75 to 80 percent of its Insured Declared Value (IDV), the claim may be settled as a total loss or constructive total loss, in accordance with policy provisions," added Saxena.

Policyholders should avoid attempting to restart a water-submerged vehicle, as this can further damage the vehicle engine. Promptly informing the insurer and moving the vehicle to an authorised garage can help expedite the claims process.

For homes, insurance extends beyond protecting the physical structure. "While standard home insurance policies cover damage to the building caused by insured natural catastrophes, homeowners can also insure household contents such as furniture, electrical and electronic appliances, clothing, jewellery, artworks, and other valuables," said Saxena.

Given the rising value of household assets, it is important to periodically review the sum insured to ensure it reflects current replacement costs rather than historical purchase values. Beyond purchasing insurance, preparedness also plays an important role in reducing financial losses.

"Homeowners should maintain a digital inventory of valuable possessions, preserve invoices for high-value items wherever possible, and keep policy documents readily accessible. In the event of a flood, documenting the damage through photographs or videos before commencing clean up and notifying the insurer at the earliest can help facilitate a quicker assessment and settlement," added Saxena.

By proactively insuring both your vehicle and home, individuals can receive financial protection against the common risks that arise during the monsoon season.

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Navneet Dubey Navneet Dubey With over a dozen years in business journalism spanning print and digital, he demystifies personal finance. His insights empower individuals to build wealth and achieve their financial goals.