

Section 5: Insurance

Having the right sort of insurance cover will help you recover from emergencies faster. You're in a far stronger position when you set your insurance up correctly and clearly understand what is and isn't covered.

Here are some important areas to consider before speaking to your insurance provider.

Assess your risks

Do you understand what risks you have on the property? Lifestyle blocks are prone to more insurance risks than city properties, including factors such as operations on neighbouring properties.

Consider future plans for your property

Your insurance requirements may change as you change or expand your operations. Commercial risk, sheds and horticulture and farming activities will all require additional insurance cover.

Check list of structures and items

Check if you're responsible, and have insurance cover, for the following structures and items on your property:

Power poles

Are you responsible for loss or damage to power poles on your property? This could be a significant cost if you don't have insurance cover for them.

Water tanks

How many water tanks are on your property? They won't all necessarily be covered by your house policy if they're primarily being used for non-household uses, such as water troughs for animals. Check with your insurance company to see if all your water tanks are covered in your policy.

Fencing

If there was damage to your fencing, would you have the necessary tools and skills to fix your fences? Maintaining fencing on a lifestyle block is a high priority, especially with livestock. If the fencing is shared, there could be even greater urgency to fix the fences to protect your stock as well as your neighbour's.

Sheds and garages

Sheds that are used for lifestyle block activities and equipment, such as housing your ride-on mower, fencing equipment and spraying gear, are often deemed as 'farm buildings', so may not be covered under a domestic policy.

Farm vehicles

Farm or off-road vehicles don't always meet the requirements for a personal use vehicle so they might need to be insured for off-road use. It's worthwhile checking with your insurer.

Ride-on lawn mowers might not be insured as part of a contents policy depending on what parts of the property they're used on – so do check that as well.

Animals

It could be worthwhile ensuring your animals, especially if you are concerned about having to pay for some of the costs yourself.

Liability

Liability insurance covers things people usually think will never happen such as livestock getting loose and causing an accident where someone is seriously injured or killed. Most lifestyle properties should have liability insurance and it's important to understand what it specifically covers.

Check whether you're eligible for Earthquake Commission cover - EQCover

EQCover provides natural disaster insurance for residential homes and land (within limits) following earthquakes, landslips, storm damage, volcanoes, tsunami and hydrothermal activity. With storm or flood damage, EQCover is limited to residential land.

To make a claim for EQCover, which is the insurance provided by the Earthquake Commission (EQC), you must have a current private insurance policy for your home that includes fire insurance.

After an event, your insurance company will be your point of contact for any applicable EQCover.



For a complete list of what is and isn't included in EQCover, visit eqc.govt.nz

Financing your recovery

Think about what funds you might need to access to get you through an emergency event. Set up a contingency fund and have a chat to your bank about available finance options.

TIP: If you have been affected by an emergency, contact your insurer as soon as you can to lodge a claim and understand how they can help. Remember to take photos of the damage.

