

Personal Lines Insights

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Provided by: Hodge, Hart & Schleifer

Life

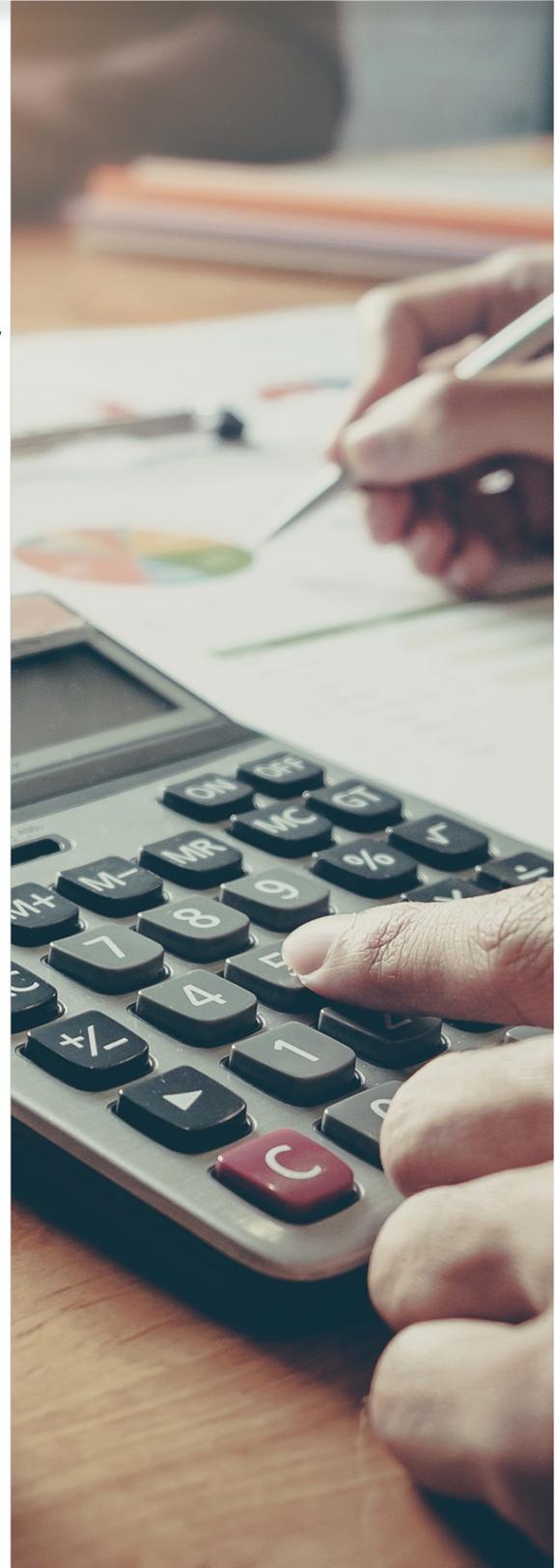
Saving for Retirement

Regardless of your age, it's never too early to start saving for retirement. By saving at a young age, you not only ensure your own financial stability, but you may also enjoy peace of mind knowing you are prepared for the future.

When saving for retirement, it's important to be realistic about how much money you are able to save. Here are some tips on how to maximize your retirement savings:

- **Set up automatic contributions**—Many companies offer direct deposit into multiple accounts. Talk with your employer to learn how you can automatically transfer funds into your savings account.
- **Cut down on expenses**—By limiting how much money you spend now, you can start to invest more money into your savings account.
- **Focus on large expenses**—Learn how to save money for your biggest expenses, such as houses, cars or traveling.
- **Strive for multiple sources of income**—Another source of income can help you make even more money—contributing to additional savings for the future as well.
- **Focus on your physical health**—Health care expenses can drain your savings. By monitoring your physical health, you can limit the amount of money you will spend on health care in the future.
- **Be a goal setter**—Be realistic about how much money you will need to save and at what age you are most likely going to retire.

It's hard to picture what our lives will look like after we retire. However, by saving money for our future, we can feel better prepared for what's to come. Contact Hodge, Hart & Schleifer to learn more about how to save for your retirement.





Auto

Maintaining Your Tires

Checking your tires on a regular basis is critical and can help you stay safe on the road. Additionally, proper maintenance of your tires can improve your gas mileage, prevent unwanted accidents and maintain proper steering. Consider the following tips to help maintain your tires:

- **Rotate your tires every 5,000 to 7,000 miles**—This practice will ensure that your tires wear evenly.
- **Check your tire pressure once a month**—Underinflated tires can lead to tire stress, irregular wear and car accidents. The right amount of air pressure needed for your tires can be found in your owner's manual.
- **Check your tire tread depth regularly**—Tread is what gives your vehicle the traction it needs to stop and hold the road on curves. One way to check your tread depth is by conducting the penny test. Place a penny upside down with Lincoln facing you in the center of the tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, it's time to replace your tires.

By taking the time to properly maintain your tires, you can help ensure both your own and other drivers' safety on the road.

Home

Selecting an Effective Security System

In many neighborhoods, theft is a major concern. Thankfully, there are certain preventive steps you can take to protect your home from potential criminals, including installing a security system.

Home security systems have become increasingly popular and are a viable option to consider when securing your home. However, there are many different home security systems, so it can be hard to decide which one is best for you. Here are some factors to consider when trying to decide which security system would work best for your situation:

- **Cost**—Home security systems vary greatly in cost, despite offering similar services and functionality. Above all, when choosing a system, it is important to stay within your budget.
- **Monitoring options**—When selecting a system, you should know whether you would like to monitor your home yourself or have it done by a professional. With professional monitoring, there are local monitoring service stations that watch over your home and respond to triggered sensors or unusual activity. A certified technician will be sent to your home to install and set up your system. Conversely, self-monitoring will directly alert you if there are triggered sensors or unusual activity. These systems are usually self-installed.
- **Security system size**—Whether you choose a professional monitoring system or a self-monitoring one, you will need to make sure the equipment fits in your home. A small apartment or condo may require a smaller security system than a large home would require.

No matter what kind of security system you choose, you can enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that your home is protected. For more information about different home security systems, contact Hodge, Hart & Schleifer