

11 Ways to Lower Your Homeowners Insurance Rate

Practical, actionable steps Illinois homeowners can take right now to reduce their insurance premiums — from raising deductibles to home security upgrades and hidden discounts.

1. Shop Your Policy Every Year

Your current carrier will not automatically find you a better rate. Rates change annually based on carrier loss ratios, reinsurance costs, and regional risk. An independent agent like Lakeside Insurance Partners compares 14+ carriers simultaneously — something a captive agent cannot do. Even a \$200/year savings compounds significantly over time.

TIP: Switch carriers at renewal — the switching process takes 1 business day and your coverage never lapses.

2. Raise Your Deductible

The deductible is what you pay out of pocket before insurance kicks in. Moving from a \$500 to a \$1,000 deductible can reduce your annual premium by 10–15%. A \$2,500 deductible can save 20–25%. The key: make sure you have that deductible amount in savings before you raise it.

TIP: Do not raise your deductible above what you can comfortably pay in an emergency.

3. Bundle Home and Auto

Most carriers offer a multi-policy discount of 10–25% when you bundle your homeowners and auto insurance. This is one of the fastest ways to save without changing your coverage at all.

TIP: Bundling can also simplify your billing and claims experience — one carrier, one call.

4. Install a Home Security System

Monitored alarm systems that connect to a central station can earn discounts of 5–15% with most carriers. Smart smoke detectors, CO detectors, and water leak sensors also qualify for credits at many companies.

TIP: Ask your carrier for a list of qualifying systems before you purchase one.

5. Update Your Roof

Your roof is one of the biggest factors in your homeowners rate. A newer roof — especially impact-resistant shingles — can dramatically reduce your premium. Many carriers will not offer coverage at all on roofs older than 20 years.

TIP: Get documentation when your roof is replaced and notify your insurer immediately.

6. Improve Your Credit Score

In Illinois, most carriers use a credit-based insurance score as a rating factor. Improving your credit score — paying down balances, disputing errors — can meaningfully lower your premium over time.

TIP: Request a re-rating after significant credit improvement. Carriers are required to notify you when credit impacts your rate.

7. Remove Attractive Nuisances

Trampolines, pools, certain dog breeds, and unfenced hazards on your property increase liability risk and therefore your premium. Removing or properly securing these can reduce your rate.

TIP: A pool with a locked gate and alarm is rated very differently from an unsecured one.

8. Ask About Loyalty Discounts

Many carriers offer discounts for staying with them 3, 5, or 10 years. However — and this is important — loyalty discounts often do not offset the savings from switching carriers entirely. Always compare.

TIP: Loyalty is worth something, but not if it costs you \$500/year.

9. Review Your Coverage Limits Annually

Many homeowners are over-insured on personal property or carry unnecessary endorsements for items they no longer own. A quick review can trim premiums without cutting meaningful protection.

TIP: Under-insurance is the bigger risk — but carrying \$50,000 in jewelry coverage when you own \$5,000 of jewelry wastes money.

10. Claim Wisely

Every claim you file goes on your CLUE report (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange) and can affect your rate for 5–7 years. Small claims — under \$1,000 — are often better paid out of pocket than submitted.

TIP: Ask your agent to estimate the rate impact of a claim before you file it.

11. Work With an Independent Agent

A captive agent (State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide) can only offer their company's products. An independent agent like Lakeside Insurance Partners shops your risk across 14+ carriers and finds the best combination of price, coverage, and financial strength.

TIP: One phone call. 14+ carriers compared. No cost to you.

Get a Free Rate Comparison Today

We compare 14+ top-rated Illinois carriers in one call. No obligation, no pressure — just real numbers so you can make the right decision. Call Patrick at (847) 637-8890 or visit lakesideinsures.com to get started.