

Securing Vital Documents

If a fire, flood or other natural disaster should strike your home, would your vital documents be safe? Certain items should be stored in a bank safe deposit box or home fire- and flood-proof safe. These items include:

- originals of your insurance policies
- family records such as birth, marriage and death certificates
- original deeds, titles, mortgages, leases and other contracts
- stocks, bonds and certificates of deposit (CDs)
- special jewels, medals, rare stamps and other collectibles
- photo negatives
- videos or pictures of your home's contents for insurance purposes
- copies of your will, medical care directives and funeral and burial instructions
- original social security cards
- passports
- irreplaceable historical family documents, photos and memorabilia

Once you have a place to secure your items, use the attached document to keep a list of what is in the box or safe for easy reference. List the item being stored and the date it was placed there so you know if you have your latest will secured or not. Then when you're looking for your mortgage or the photo of great-aunt Mildred, you'll know just where to find it.

