

# Quick Fix

## *Filing Insurance Claims*

■ **The Problem:** Should you take a detailed inventory of your possessions in case something happens to your home?

■ **The Solution:** Having a detailed list of your household items, from electronics and furniture to silverware and even clothing and toys, helps get your insurance claims settled faster. It also helps you purchase the right amount of cover-



age in the first place, as well as substantiate any tax losses.

Last year, the Insurance Information

Institute began offering free inventory software ([www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org)) to help people document their possessions, room-by-room. It's smart to take photos or videos of your items, and if possible, save receipts. Also keep notes on major home features or improvements, such as decorative moldings or tile work.

Also important: Keep a copy of the inventory in a secure place away from home, such as a safe deposit box or with a friend or relative.

—Rachel Emma Silverman