



SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES, HOME SAFES AND YOUR VAUABLES

A HOME SAFE ISN'T A TRUE REPLACEMENT FOR A BANK'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX.

A home safe could be used to store replaceable items you may need immediate access to. But home safes are not as secure as a safe deposit box.

NO SAFE DEPOSIT BOX OR HOME SAFE IS COMPLETELY PROTECTED FROM THEFT, FIRE, FLOOD OR OTHER LOSS OR DAMAGE.

Consider taking precautions, such as protecting against water damage by placing items in water-safe, plastic bags or other container that can be resealed.

And, don't keep identifying information on or near your safe deposit box key, such as the box number and the bank's name, in case of loss or theft.

WHAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE KEPT IN A BANK'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX?

Good candidates for a safe deposit box include originals of key documents, such as birth certificates, property deeds and car titles. Other possibilities for the box include family keepsakes, valuable collections and pictures or videos for insurance purposes.

BE MINDFUL OF WHOM YOU ALLOW TO ACCESS YOUR SAFE DEPOSIT BOX.

You can jointly rent a safe deposit box with one or more people whom you would like to give unrestricted access. Keep in mind, though, that your bank would likely not be responsible for anything that people you authorize to enter the box remove without your permission.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF KEEPING CASH IN BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS THAN IN A HOME SAFE OR A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX.

By law, the FDIC only insures deposits in deposit accounts at insured institutions and only in the rare instances when a bank fails. A safe deposit box is not a deposit account, it is a storage space provided by the bank, so the contents, including cash, checks or other valuables are not insured by the FDIC if damaged or stolen. Also read the terms of the safe deposit box rental agreement as the bank may limit what you can keep in the box.

For additional tips visit www.fdic.gov