



**OLYMPIA TITLE & ESCROW CORP.**  
**401 EAST LAS OLAS BLVD, STE 1400**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301**  
**TOLL FREE: (888) 412-5674**  
**PHONE: (954) 695-7598**  
**FAX: (954) 862-5938**

## What is title insurance?

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Great, you've decided to buy a house. This exciting time can be a bit confusing. Things start coming at you pretty fast and furious. Some important things can go unexplained, like the need for title insurance. Most people don't understand exactly what title insurance is or what it does. This includes people that already have it. As a title insurance company, Olympia Title is here to help that. We have put together some basic information for you on title insurance in this flyer.

### What is title?

Simply stated, the title to a piece of property is the evidence that the owner is in lawful possession of that property.

### What is title insurance?

Title insurance protects real estate owners and lenders against any property loss or damage they might experience because of liens, encumbrances or the defects in the title to the property. Each title insurance policy is subject to specific terms, conditions and exclusions.

### How does title insurance differ from other insurance?

Insurance such as car, life, health, etc. protects against potential future events and is paid for with monthly or annual premiums. A title policy insures against events that occurred in the past of the real property and the people who owned it, for a one-time premium paid at the close of the escrow.

### What does title insurance cover?

Title insurance protects against claims from defects. Defects are things such as another person claiming an ownership interest, improperly recorded documents, fraud, forgery, liens, encroachments, easements and other items that are specified in the actual policy.

### Who needs title insurance?

Purchasers and lenders need title insurance in order to be insured against various possible title defects. The buyer, seller and lender all benefit from the issuance of title insurance.

### How is a title policy created?

After the escrow officer or lender opens the title order, Olympia Title begins a title search. A Preliminary Report is issued to the customer for review and approval. All closing documents are recorded upon escrow's instruction. When recording has been confirmed, Liens and debts paid, funds are disbursed, and the actual title policy is created.

### What is 'escrow'?

Escrow refers to the process in which the funds of a transaction (such as the sale of a house) are held by a third party, often the title company or an attorney in the case of real estate, pending the fulfillment of the transaction.

### What are the policy types?

A standard policy insures the new owner/homebuyer, and a lender's policy insures the priority of the lender's security interest.

Visit [www.olympiatile.org](http://www.olympiatile.org) for more information on title insurance and to find out why Olympia Title is the right title company for you. We have other resources for Buyers, Sellers, Realtors, and Investors.