

State Insurance Departments

AK	907-269-7900	www.dced.state.ak.us/insurance
AL	334-269-3550	www.aldoi.org
AR	501-371-2600	http://insurance.arkansas.gov
AZ	602-364-3100	www.id.state.az.us
CA	800-927-4357	www.insurance.ca.gov
CO	303-894-7499	www.dora.state.co.us/insurance
CT	860-297-3800	www.ct.gov/cid/site/default.asp
DC	202-727-8000	www.disb.dc.gov/dsr/site/default.asp
DE	302-674-7300	www.delawareinsurance.gov
FL	850-413-3140	www.floir.com
GA	404-656-2070	www.gainsurance.org
HI	808-586-2790	http://hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/ins
IA	515-281-5705	www.iid.state.ia.us
IL	217-782-4515	http://insurance.illinois.gov
IN	317-232-2385	www.in.gov/idoi
ID	208-334-4250	www.doi.idaho.gov
KS	785-296-3071	www.ksinsurance.org
KY	800-595-6053	http://doi.ppr.ky.gov/kentucky
LA	225-342-5900	www.lidi.la.gov
MA	617-973-8700	www.state.ma.us/doi
MD	410-468-2000	www.mdinsurance.state.md.us/sa/jsp/Mia.jsp
ME	207-624-8475	www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance
MI	517-335-3167	http://www.michigan.gov/ofis
MN	651-296-2488	www.commerce.state.mn.us
MO	573-751-4126	http://insurance.mo.gov
MS	601-359-3569	www.mid.state.ms.us
MT	406-444-2040	http://sao.mt.gov/insurance/index.asp
NC	919-807-6750	www.ncdoi.com
ND	701-328-2440	www.nd.gov/ndins
NE	402-471-2201	www.doi.ne.gov
NH	603-271-2261	www.nh.gov/insurance
NJ	800-446-7467	www.state.nj.us/dobi/index.html
NM	505-827-4601	www.nmprc.state.nm/id.htm
NV	775-687-4270	http://doi.state.nv.us
NY	800-342-3736	www.ins.state.ny.us
OH	614-644-2658	www.ohioinsurance.gov
OK	405-521-2828	www.ok.gov/oid
OR	503-947-7980	www.cbs.state.or.us/external/ins
PA	717-787-2317	www.ins.state.pa.us/ins/site/default.asp
PR	787-722-8686	www.ocs.gobierno.pr/ocspr
RI	401-462-9500	www.dbr.state.ri.us
SC	803-737-6160	www.doi.sc.gov
SD	605-773-3563	www.state.sd.us/drr2/reg/insurance
TN	615-741-2241	www.state.tn.us/commerce
TX	800-252-3439	www.tdi.state.tx.us
UT	801-538-3800	www.insurance.utah.gov
VA	804-371-9741	www.scc.virginia.gov/division/boi
VT	802-828-3301	www.bishca.state.vt.us
WA	360-725-7080	www.insurance.wa.gov
WI	800-236-8517	www.oci.wi.gov
WV	304-558-3354	www.wvinsurance.gov
WY	307-777-7401	http://insurance.state.wy.us

When you comparison shop, inquire about discounts for the following:*

- Antitheft Devices
- Auto and Homeowners Coverage with the Same Company
- College Students away from Home
- Defensive Driving Courses
- Drivers Ed Courses
- Good Credit Record
- Higher deductibles
- Low Annual Mileage
- Long-Time Customer
- More than 1 car
- No Accidents in 3 Years
- No Moving Violations in 3 Years
- Student Drivers with Good Grades

*The discounts listed may not be available in all states or from all insurance companies.

The key to savings is not the discounts, but the final price. A company that offers few discounts may still have a lower overall price.



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NY, NY 10038
www.iii.org

Reviewed by:

Consumer Federation of America
www.consumerfed.org

Federal Citizen Information Center
www.pueblo.gsa.gov

National Consumers League
www.nclnet.org

Cooperative State Research, Education,
and Extension Service, USDA
www.csrees.usda.gov



Ways to Lower Your Auto Insurance Costs



One of the best ways to keep your auto insurance costs down is to have a good driving record.

Listed below are other things you can do to lower your insurance costs.

1 Shop Around

Prices vary from company to company, so it pays to shop around. Get at least three price quotes. You can call companies directly or access information on the Internet. Your state insurance department may also provide comparisons of prices charged by major insurers. (State insurance department phone numbers and Web sites can be found on the back cover.)

You buy insurance to protect you financially and provide peace of mind. It's important to pick a company that is financially stable. Check the financial health of insurance companies with rating companies such as A.M. Best (www.ambest.com) and Standard & Poor's (www.standardandpoors.com/ratings) and consult consumer magazines.

Get quotes from different types of insurance companies. Some sell through their own agents. These agencies have the same name as the insurance company. Some sell through independent agents who offer policies from several insurance companies. Others do not use agents. They sell directly to consumers over the phone or via the Internet.

Don't shop by price alone. Ask friends and relatives for their recommendations. Contact your state insurance department to find out whether they provide information on consumer complaints by company. Pick an agent or company representative that takes the time to answer your questions. You can use the checklist on the back of this brochure to help you compare quotes from insurers.

2 Before You Buy a Car, Compare Insurance Costs

Before you buy a new or used car, check into insurance costs. Car insurance premiums are based in part on the car's price, the cost to repair it, its overall safety record and the likelihood of theft. Many insurers offer discounts for features that reduce the risk of injuries or theft. To help you decide what car to buy, you can get information from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (www.iihs.org).

3 Ask for Higher Deductibles

Deductibles are what you pay before your insurance policy kicks in. By requesting higher deductibles, you can lower your costs substantially. For example, increasing your deductible from \$200 to \$500 could reduce your collision and comprehensive coverage cost by 15 to 30 percent. Going to a \$1,000 deductible can save you 40 percent or more. Before choosing a higher deductible, be sure you have enough money set aside to pay it if you have a claim.

4 Reduce Coverage on Older Cars

Consider dropping collision and/or comprehensive coverages on older cars. If your car is worth less than 10 times the premium, purchasing the coverage may not be cost effective. Auto dealers and banks can tell you the worth of cars. Or you can look it up online at Kelley's Blue Book (www.kbb.com). Review your coverage at renewal time to make sure your insurance needs haven't changed.

5 Buy Your Homeowners and Auto Coverage from the Same Insurer

Many insurers will give you a break if you buy two or more types of insurance. You may also get a reduction if you have more than one vehicle insured with the same company. Some insurers reduce the rates for long-time customers. But it still makes sense to shop around!

You may save money buying from different insurance companies, compared with a multipolicy discount.

6 Maintain a Good Credit Record

Establishing a solid credit history can cut your insurance costs. Most insurers use credit information to price auto insurance policies. Research shows that people who effectively manage their credit have fewer claims. To protect your credit standing, pay your bills on time, don't obtain more credit than you need and keep your credit balances as low as possible. Check your credit record on a regular basis and have any errors corrected promptly so that your record remains accurate.

7 Take Advantage of Low Mileage Discounts

Some companies offer discounts to motorists who drive a lower than average number of miles per year. Low mileage discounts can also apply to drivers who car pool to work.

8 Ask about Group Insurance

Some companies offer reductions to drivers who get insurance through a group plan from their employers, through professional, business and alumni groups or from other associations. Ask your employer and inquire with groups or clubs you are a member of to see if this is possible.

9 Seek Out Other Discounts

Companies offer discounts to policyholders who have not had any accidents or moving violations for a number of years. You may also get a discount if you take a defensive driving course. If there is a young driver on the policy who is a good student, has taken a drivers education course or is away at college without a car, you may also qualify for a lower rate.