



OWNERSHIP & SAVINGS

How to Save Money on Car Insurance

Lower rates come from shopping smart, asking the right questions, and choosing the right vehicle in the first place.

A NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

Insurance companies reward the customers who pay attention. Most people renew on autopilot for years and never ask a single question. This guide gives you the questions, the tradeoffs, and a once-a-year checkup so you're never overpaying just because nobody told you to look.

— The Auto Advocate Team

Your car insurance premium isn't a fixed bill. It's a price, set by a company, based on information you can often influence. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) puts it simply: it pays to shop around. Here's how to do it, plus the tradeoffs behind every lever you can pull.

1 Shop and Compare, Every Year

Rates vary from company to company for the same driver and the same vehicle. The only way to know what you're paying for is to compare. Ask for quotes with **identical limits and deductibles**, give complete and accurate information, and list every household driver.

Use **Worksheet No. 05, Insurance Quote Comparison Sheet** to lay quotes side by side.

LOWEST ISN'T ALWAYS BEST

The Oklahoma Insurance Department reminds shoppers that the lowest quote might not be the best choice. Before you switch, confirm the company is licensed in your state and look up its complaint record through your state insurance department.

2 Ask for Every Savings Program

Insurers don't always apply what you qualify for automatically. The NAIC lists these common rate reductions. Ask about each one by name.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Two or more vehicles on one policy | ☐ Mature driver programs |
| ☐ Auto and home or renters with the same company (bundling) | ☐ Airbags and other safety equipment |
| ☐ Completing a driver education course | ☐ Anti-theft devices |
| ☐ Good student, for drivers under 25 | ☐ A clean record: no at-fault accidents or violations |

Bundling isn't automatically the cheapest. Price the bundle and the separate policies, then compare totals.

FROM THE INSIDE

Our team has spent years on the dealership side of the desk. One thing we've seen over and over: buyers choose between two vehicles on payment alone, then discover the one they picked costs noticeably more to insure. Get insurance quotes on **both** finalists before you decide. And if you're financing, read your loan contract. Lenders generally require collision and comprehensive coverage, so check whether your contract also limits how high your deductible can go before you raise it.

3 The Deductible Tradeoff

Generally, the higher your collision and comprehensive deductibles, the lower your premium. The catch: you pay that deductible out of pocket when you file a claim. Choose a number you could pay next week without borrowing. Then run the math.

CALCULATION	LOWER DEDUCTIBLE	HIGHER DEDUCTIBLE	DIFFERENCE
Deductible amount	\$	\$	\$
Annual premium	\$	\$	\$
Years to break even (<i>deductible difference ÷ annual premium difference</i>)			

If you'd break even in just a few claim-free years and have the cash set aside, the higher deductible may be worth it. If you'd struggle to cover it, it isn't.

Driving an older, paid-off vehicle? The NAIC suggests you may consider dropping collision and comprehensive on older vehicles, unless a lienholder requires them. Compare the coverage cost to what the vehicle is actually worth.

4 Credit-Based Insurance Scores

In many states, insurers may use a **credit-based insurance score** as one factor in pricing. It's not the same as your lending credit score. The NAIC explains that it estimates how likely you are to file a claim, not whether you'll repay a loan. It's typically weighed alongside your driving record, claims history, location, and coverage choices.

State rules differ. Some states add restrictions or prohibit certain uses entirely, and in most states insurers can't use the score as the sole reason for certain adverse decisions. Ask your state insurance department what applies to you.

- Review your credit reports for errors and dispute them.
- If credit affected a decision, ask for the notice you're generally entitled to.

5 Telematics & Usage-Based Insurance

Usage-based insurance (UBI) prices your policy partly on how you actually drive. A plug-in device, built-in vehicle system, or phone app tracks things like miles driven, time of day, hard braking, rapid acceleration, and hard cornering. Programs come in two broad styles: **pay-as-you-drive** (how much you drive) and **pay-how-you-drive** (how and when you drive).

Can work well for

Low-mileage drivers, remote workers, and calm, consistent drivers who rarely drive late at night.

Ask before you enroll

Can my rate go up based on the data? What exactly is collected, including location? How long is it kept, and who sees it?

6 Your Driving Record Is Your Rate

Insurers generally charge safe drivers lower rates, so every ticket you avoid is money kept. Ask whether your company recognizes a driver education or defensive driving course, and what it takes to qualify.

OKLAHOMA DRIVERS: KNOW SECTION 941

According to the Oklahoma Insurance Department, an insurer cannot raise your premium, assign points to your driving record, or cancel or refuse to renew your policy **solely** because of a collision you did not cause. If that happens, contact the department. Outside Oklahoma? Ask your state insurance department about similar protections.

7 Vehicle Choice Drives Your Premium

The NAIC notes that vehicles that are expensive to repair, offer less occupant protection, or cause more damage in crashes often cost more to insure. The Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI), part of IIHS, publishes free **insurance loss results by make and model**, showing whether each vehicle's claims run better or worse than average.

- **Compare** models within the same size and class.
- Check collision, comprehensive, and injury results separately.
- Brand-new designs may have no data yet, and a redesign may not match the old model's record.

8 Your Annual Insurance Checkup

Put a reminder on your calendar 30 days before every renewal. Then work through this list.

- ☐ Pull my declarations page and read every line
- ☐ Address, vehicles, and VINs are correct
- ☐ Every driver and birth date is correct
- ☐ Annual mileage still matches how I drive
- ☐ All savings programs I qualify for are applied
- ☐ Liability limits still protect what I own
- ☐ Deductibles still match my emergency savings
- ☐ Coverage on older vehicles still makes sense
- ☐ Got at least two competing quotes
- ☐ Checked my credit reports for errors

MY POLICY AT A GLANCE

COVERAGE	THIS YEAR	AFTER MY REVIEW	NOTES / QUESTIONS FOR MY AGENT
Bodily injury liability (per person / per accident)	___ / ___	___ / ___	
Property damage liability			
Uninsured / underinsured motorist			
Med Pay or PIP			
Collision deductible			
Comprehensive deductible			
Rental and roadside			
Savings programs applied			
Premium for the term	\$	\$	

Renewal date _____ Current premium _____ Best new quote _____

GET YOUR WHOLE PURCHASE LINED UP

Lower rates start with the vehicle you choose and how you buy it.

Insurance cost is one more reason to plan the purchase before you're on the lot. With Walk-In Ready, we locate the right vehicle, tell you who to ask for and what to say, and list every document to bring, so your insurance, financing, and paperwork are ready before you arrive.

Walk-In Ready **\$399**

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THE DEALERSHIP HAS EXPERTS. NOW YOU DO, TOO.

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