



Shopping for auto insurance work sheet

Questions to ask about auto insurance

Ask yourself these questions when shopping for auto insurance.

Check out the company

What is the insurance company's reputation? _____

- Check with your state insurance department to make sure the company is licensed in your state and see if they keep a record of complaints. Or go to the [NAIC Consumer Information Source Web site](#).

If they do keep a record, what is the company's record? _____

What is their financial rating? _____

- Go to www.ambest.com to how they rank.

Premiums

What kind of coverage do you need? _____

- Bodily injury and personal property liability are the big ones.
 - What is your state minimum requirement on bodily injury and personal property liability? Odds are it might not be enough if you have assets to lose in case of a lawsuit resulting from an accident. Consider an umbrella policy to get more protection.
- Personal injury protection pays for both medical expenses and lost wages to the policyholder and covers the policyholder's passengers. Drivers in good health with a disability policy could go for the minimum on this coverage.
- Collision and comprehensive falls under the optional category if you're driving an old beater. Collision will pay for the replacement or repair of the car in any kind of accident while comprehensive covers you for natural disasters or theft. For newer cars, carrying the highest deductible you can afford will lower the premiums on these two.
- Uninsured motorist will protect you from the yahoos with no insurance or not enough liability coverage to pay for the damages if they're at fault. It also covers you in the event of a hit-and-run.

How much will the coverage you need cost? _____

How does it compare with what other companies are charging? _____

Discounts

Does your company offer any kind of discounts? _____

These are some common auto insurance premium offsets:

- Being a safe driver: If you've gone several years with no accidents or tickets, you could get a break on the cost of insurance.
- Safety features such as daytime running lights, airbags or anti-lock brakes.
- Having more than one car on your policy.
- Defensive driving course for seniors or teens.
- Good student discount for college students who maintain a certain grade point average.

Customer service

How do you get in touch with the company? _____

Is there a local agent? _____

Will they send someone out to see you? _____

Is it a 1-800 number and a Web site? _____

Coverage you need

What is the minimum required coverage in your state? _____

How much is your car worth? _____

- How old is it? _____
Experts recommend skipping collision and comprehensive if you have an old car.

How much of a deductible would you be able to afford? _____

What is the most liability coverage you can afford? _____