

Welcome to the
Freedom Village Malls

Automotive Megamall
Information Center

<http://www.freedomvillagemalls.com/dir/linksauto.html>

Nine Ways to Lower Your Auto Insurance Costs by the USDA
Helpful information on reducing your expenses. Includes a chart to compare discounts when shopping for insurance.

STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENTS

AK:	907-269-7900	http://www.dced.state.ak.us/insurance/
AL:	334-269-3550	http://www.aldoi.gov
AR:	501-371-2600	http://www.accessarkansas.org/insurance/
AZ:	602-912-8400	http://www.id.state.az.us
CA:	800-927-4357	http://www.insurance.ca.gov
CO:	303-894-7499	http://www.dora.state.co.us/insurance
CT:	860-297-3800	http://www.ct.gov/cid
DC:	202-727-8000	http://www.distr.washingtondc.gov
DE:	302-739-4251	http://www.state.de.us/inscom
FL:	850-413-3100	http://www.fidfs.com
GA:	404-656-2056	http://www.gainsurance.org
HI:	808-586-2790	http://www.state.hi.us/dcae/ins
IA:	515-281-5705	http://www.id.state.ia.us
ID:	208-334-4250	http://www.doi.state.id.us
IL:	217-782-4515	http://www.ins.state.il.us
IN:	317-232-2385	http://www.in.gov/doi/
KS:	785-296-3071	http://www.ksinsurance.org
KY:	502-564-6027	http://ppr.ky.gov
LA:	225-342-5423	http://www.lci.la.gov
MA:	617-521-7301	http://www.state.ma.us/doi
MD:	410-468-2090	http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us
ME:	207-664-8475	http://www.maineinsuranceereg.org
MI:	517-335-3167	http://www.michigan.gov/ofis
MN:	651-297-7161	http://www.commerce.state.mn.us
MO:	573-751-4126	http://www.insurance.state.mo.us/
MS:	601-359-3569	http://www.doi.state.ms.us/
MT:	406-444-2040	http://sao.state.mt.us/sao/insurance/index.html
NC:	919-733-3058	http://www.ncdoi.com/
ND:	701-328-2440	http://www.state.nd.us/ndins/
NE:	402-471-2201	http://www.noi.org/home/NDOI
NH:	603-271-2261	http://www.state.nh.us/insurance
NJ:	609-292-5360	http://www.njdoib.org
NM:	505-827-4601	http://www.nmpcr.state.nm.us/insurance/nshim.htm
NV:	775-687-4270	http://doi.state.nv.us/
NY:	212-460-6400	http://www.ins.state.ny.us
OH:	614-644-2658	http://www.ohioinsurance.gov/
OK:	405-521-2828	http://www.oit.state.ok.us/
OR:	503-947-7980	http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/ins
PA:	717-783-0442	http://www.ins.state.pa.us/ms/site/default.asp
PR:	787-722-8686	http://www.ocs.gobierno.pr/
RI:	401-222-2223	http://www.dbr.state.ri.us
SC:	803-737-6212	http://www.doi.state.sc.us/
SD:	605-773-4104	http://www.state.sd.us/dcr/insurance/
TN:	615-741-2241	http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/insurdiv.html
TX:	512-463-6464	http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/
UT:	801-538-3800	http://www.insurance.state.ut.us/
VA:	804-371-9694	http://www.state.va.us/scc/division/boi/index.htm
VI:	340-774-7166	
VT:	802-828-3301	http://www.bishca.state.vt.us
WA:	360-725-7100	http://www.insurance.wa.gov/
WI:	608-267-1233	http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/oci/oci_home.htm
WV:	304-568-3354	http://www.state.wv.us/insurance
WY:	307-777-7401	http://insurance.state.wy.us

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

- \$500 deductible
- \$1,000 deductible
- More than 1 car
- No Accidents in 3 Years
- No Moving Violations in 3 Years
- Driver Training Courses
- Defensive Driving Courses
- Anti-Theft Devices
- Low Annual Mileage
- Air Bags
- Anti-Lock Brakes
- Daytime Running Lights
- Student Drivers with Good Grades
- Auto and Homeowners Coverage with the Same Company
- College Students away from Home
- Long-Time Customer
- Other Discounts

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.

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

For more information, call the National Insurance Consumer Helpline (NICH) at 1-800-942-4242.



Insurance Information Institute
 110 William Street
 NY, NY 10038
<http://www.iii.org> or
<http://www.insurance.info>

Reviewed by:

Consumer Federation of America
<http://www.consumerfed.org/>

Federal Citizen Information Center
<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/>

National Consumers League
<http://www.nclnet.org/>

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA
<http://www.reeusda.gov/>



Insurance Information Institute

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.

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 (<http://www.ambest.com>) and Standard & Poor's (<http://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 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.

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 sticker 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. These include daytime running lights and anti-theft devices. To help you decide what car to buy, you can get information from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (<http://www.iihs.org>).

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.

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 (<http://www.kbb.com>). Review your coverage at renewal time to make sure your insurance needs haven't changed.

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 from them. You may also get a reduction if you have more than one vehicle insured with the same company. Some insurers reduce 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.

Maintain a Good Credit Record

Establishing a solid credit history can cut your insurance costs. Insurers are increasingly using credit information to price auto insurance policies. Research shows that those who effectively manage their credit also are more responsible drivers. 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.

Take Advantage of Low Mileage Discounts

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

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 other associations. Ask your employer, and if you are a member of such a group or club, see if discount plans are available.

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 at a college out of the area without a car, you may also qualify for a lower rate.