



What to look for when buying car insurance

What you need to know

When you've found a set of wheels it's important to sort out your car insurance before you hit the road. We've put together some general information to help you choose what policy is right for your needs. It's important to do your own research and shop around so that you can choose the right policy for you.

What is car insurance?

Car insurance falls into a few different categories - Comprehensive, Third party fire and theft, and Third party cover. You choose how much cover you need. When you're comparing policies, make sure you check the policy wordings for more details.

What are some things to consider?

Comprehensive cover - covers your car and the damage you may do to others. Additionally, it covers damage done to your car by uninsured vehicles. If you have an accident and you want your car repaired, comprehensive is the only policy that covers this. Most of our customers choose comprehensive cover.

Third party fire and theft cover - covers your car if it's stolen or damaged in a fire. It also covers you for damage you may cause to other people's car or property. There is limited coverage if your car is damaged by an uninsured vehicle, and no coverage to your car for accidental loss or damage if you are at fault. It's a lower level of cover which means the cost of this insurance will be less than Comprehensive cover.

Third party cover - this is the minimum (and also cheapest) level of cover available. It covers damage your car causes to other people's car or property. Often mistaken for low value vehicle insurance, it's important to remember that if an accident occurs this covers the costs for other people's repairs which can be expensive.

Agreed value - is a sum you choose to insure your car for at the time you buy your policy. Your agreed value is typically locked in for 12 months but it's not fixed for life. As the value of your car will change over time, at each renewal your insurer may change the agreed value of your insurance to reflect this.

Market value - is insuring your car for the amount it is worth at the time you claim, in the event of total loss. It is worked out by a registered valuer, based on factors like type of car, mileage, and condition. Market value is often slightly cheaper than agreed value but it's a personal preference. Some insurers may not offer both covers.

Keeping your cover up to date - It's important to let your insurer know if your circumstances change to keep your cover up to date, for example:

- If you move to a new house
- If you want to change the main driver of your vehicle or your level of cover
- If you modify the appearance or performance of your car

Check with your insurer if you're unsure and make sure you read your policy wording for full details.

Explore your options with Tower

Tower has a range of car insurance policies, designed to really look out for you with lots of great benefits. Get a quote online and compare us today!

- One event, one excess - if one event means you need to claim on multiple Tower car, house, contents, and boat policies, you'll only pay one excess. The highest excess applies.

- Two-year new car replacement - if you buy a car from new and it's written off, we'll replace it with a new car of the same make, model and variant if it's written off within the first two years of ownership. Must be insured from new with Tower.
- Child car seats - we'll provide up to \$750 per seat if they're damaged in a car accident, or while they're stored at home.
- Windscreen excess buyout - Choose our optional windscreen excess buyout benefit and you won't pay an excess for window glass claims.
- Get three free callouts per year with RoadWise™, our optional roadside assistance service. If your car breaks down or gets a flat tyre, RoadWise will be available to help 24/7.
- Had a car accident and need to make a claim? Some of Tower's priority repair partners can do your initial repairer assessment remotely using your mobile phone, without you needing to leave home.
- Think you're a great driver? With our GoCarma app you can prove it! You can get rewarded for safe driving with a lower excess, and other great perks. [Ts&Cs apply.](#)
- Multi-policy discount - save up to 20% when you buy multiple Tower car, house, contents, landlord and boat policies online at once using our bundle builder. [Ts&Cs apply.](#)
- Earn Airpoints Dollars™ - take out any eligible Tower policy and you'll receive 1 Airpoints Dollar™ for every \$100 you spend on your premium. [Ts&Cs apply.](#)
- Manage your insurance 24/7 with My Tower - register for our easy-to-use online self service portal My Tower, so you can update and keep track of your insurance cover online.

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