

Understanding Your Insurance

Auto Insurance: It Pays To Shop Around

(NAPSA)—For the most part, auto insurance rates have been holding steady or even declining recently but that doesn't mean you shouldn't shop around. In fact, it's a great time to shop around for auto insurance.

"Comparison shopping is crucial because rates for the same driver from different companies can vary by hundreds of dollars," said Robin Harbage, product development manager, the Progressive group of companies. "Even if you get a rate decrease from your current carrier, it's no reason to be complacent. First, the way companies price auto insurance changes; and second, something about you may have changed—you may have moved, gotten married or just gotten a year older. All these factors can affect your rate. You can save a lot of money by shopping around."

The amount by which rates vary between companies for the same driver is so dramatic, the group puts comparisons on its Web site's home page. Visitors to progressive.com can see what the company calls the "rate ticker"—a feature that displays a scrolling, up-to-the-minute sampling of different companies' rates provided to consumers throughout the U.S. who used the site's free comparison rate service.

In addition to shopping around, there are some other steps you can take to lower what you pay for car insurance. Answer the following questions to see whether you're getting the best rate.



On balance, when it comes to picking a car insurance carrier, a little forethought now may save you lots of money later.

Is your policy up to date? If you've moved, gotten married or if it has been at least three years since your last violation, check with your insurance company—you may be eligible for a rate reduction.

Are your coverage limits appropriate for the car you drive? Owners of older or inexpensive cars should consider dropping comprehensive and collision coverages. That can often save hundreds of dollars in premiums each year.

Do you carry excess coverage? Many auto insurers give you the option to add rental coverage to your policy, which pays for a rental car while your vehicle is being repaired. While conditions and costs vary from company to company, it may be unnecessary coverage if you can find other transportation for a few days.

For more information on saving money on auto insurance and for free comparison quotes, visit progressive.com.