

# Auto Insurance Answers



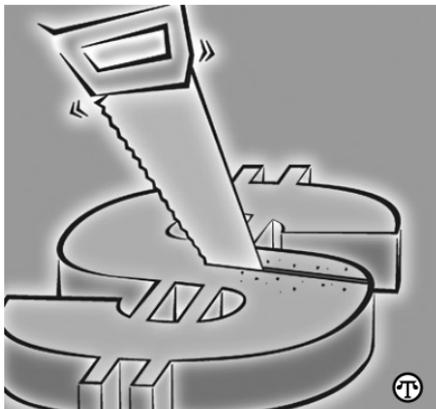
## Four Steps To Cut Your Auto Insurance Costs

(NAPSA)—Four simple steps could save consumers hundreds of dollars on their auto insurance premiums. “We counsel all consumers to be smart about their auto insurance and to talk with their agents, their current insurance company or do online research to be sure they have the right coverage and the right services at the right price,” says Alex Ho, consumer marketing director for Progressive. To be a smart auto insurance buyer, follow these steps:

**1. Shop around.** This is the single most important thing you can do to get the best possible rate. Recent research from Progressive Auto Insurance shows the cost of a new six-month auto insurance policy for the same driver(s) with the same coverages varies from company to company an average of \$524.

Have you been with the same auto insurance company for years? “Our latest research shows that of those consumers who have been with the same auto insurance carrier for seven to 10 years, 42 percent said they are extremely *unlikely* to shop for auto insurance,” says Ho. “Just because you’ve stayed with the same company year after year doesn’t mean you’re getting the best rate available to you. The variance in auto insurance rates means you could save hundreds just by shopping around.”

How to shop? Talk to companies you recognize, contact an independent agent or go online to compare rates available to you. At [progressive.com](http://progressive.com) consumers can get their own comparison rates and see the comparison rates offered to other visitors in real time on the site’s unique “rate ticker.” This feature highlights the variance that exists in insurance rates by displaying an up-to-the-minute sampling of comparison rates provided to consumers across the country who used Progressive’s online service.



**Shopping around could cut your auto insurance costs by hundreds of dollars.**

**2. Don’t carry excess coverage.** Insurance companies only pay claims equal to a car’s actual cash or market value, so comprehensive and collision coverage may not be worth keeping on an older car that has depreciated. It is generally recommended that you consider dropping collision coverage after five or more years, or when the collision premium equals 10 percent of the car’s market value. Understand that by doing so, you will not be covered for damages to your car if it overturns or collides with another object.

**3. Consider raising your deductible.** According to the Insurance Information Institute, raising your deductible from \$200 to \$500 could reduce your collision and comprehensive cost by 15 to 30 percent.

**4. Make sure your current policy accurately reflects you.** It is important to update the information your insurance company has about you, your car and your driving record. You may be eligible for a lower rate if you have gotten married, moved, no longer insure a younger driver, installed an anti-theft device, or if it has been at least three years since your last violation.

For more information on saving money on auto insurance, call 1-800-PROGRESSIVE<sup>SM</sup>, visit the Web site at [progressive.com](http://progressive.com) or contact an independent agent.