

Apples for apples?

A check list for your car insurance. Is your vehicle's insurance is correct for you?

It's important to provide complete and accurate information when completing an insurance quote and buying insurance.

Not only is this important in the unfortunate event of claiming, but it is also important when comparing quotes from different insurers.

Different insurers ask different questions, but your premium is generally calculated on the same few parameters. By providing the same information to each insurer will not only allow you to compare the quote, but also ensure that the product and its benefits can be properly compared.

When choosing insurance option takes care to compare apples with apples. Too often consumers choose a cheaper premium not fully aware of the reduced cover this implies.

Here are a few variables to double check:

- Is your car insured for market or retail value? The premium will be lower if you select market value, but at what price? In the event of a write-off or if your car is stolen without it been recovered the chances of you being able to replace the vehicle with a similar one will be greater if you were insured for retail value.
- Do they all provide cover for the balance of your bank debt?
- Check excesses, especially additional excesses. Most insurers will allow you to choose a voluntary excess, which can decrease monthly premiums. When choosing an insurance option determine whether the excesses that you will be liable for are comparable.
- Is the vehicle cover you are being quoted on for comprehensive or limited cover such as third party, fire and theft or third party only?
- Are you covered for private, professional or business use? Make sure that you understand the different options.
- Check in which countries your car is covered, more & more insurers require notification when you drive in neighbouring countries.
- Have you noted the same regular driver when comparing policies? Remember the regular driver, age, sex and claims history impact on the premium
- Policy holder and driver may be two different people.
- Ensure that the values of any specified non-factory-fitted accessories are comparable.
- Check whether car hire is selected, what type of car is specified for the hire, under what conditions car hire is available (write off only or write off and repairs) and whether the period for which this benefit may be utilised is comparable.

- Does the policy require that you fit a tracking device in your vehicle? This could mean an additional monthly expense and a long-term contract, normally three years.
- What security arrangements and where the car is usually parked are taken into account
- Does the policy include any additional free services such as an emergency assistance? Also look at the usage conditions of the emergency assistance. Some insurers may limit callouts; once exhausted you are liable for the costs of a callout.
- Does the policy cover reasonable towing and storage costs in the event of an accident? Some insurers only cover a portion.

Remember: ask to explain any unclear conditions of cover and how this will impact on your premium and the cover you will receive. Quite often a moderately more expensive premium could mean significantly better cover.

Kind regards
Dave

