

■ SHOPPING TIPS FOR INSURANCE

Save Money on Auto Insurance

- Compare prices. Get at least 3 quotes.
- Use the auto-insurance buyer's guide.
- Don't buy collision and comprehensive coverage from the lender.
- Buy a car that is inexpensive to repair.
- Raise the deductibles (but have money in savings).
- Have sufficient liability coverage.
- Consider dropping collision insurance on older cars.
- Take advantage of discounts: good driver, safe vehicle, good student, low mileage, occupational, internet.
- Describe exactly how your car is used.
- Notify insurer about changes that could lower rates.
- Pay entire premium when due.
- Share your car with a teenager (insurance for a car they own is even more expensive!)
- Drive safely.
- Check with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety for vehicle ratings.
- Multi-policy Insurance: Buy all policies from the same company.

Save Money on Homeowner's Insurance

- Compare prices. Get at least 3 quotes.
- Buy all your property and casualty insurance from the same company.
- Install deadbolt locks, smoke detectors, a fire extinguisher, and burglar alarms.
- Pay annually.
- Raise the deductible.
- Quit smoking.

- Buy replacement-cost coverage.
- Have sufficient liability coverage.
- Buy a recently built house.
- Don't over-insure (don't include price of the land your house is on).

Tips to Remember

- Purchase insurance to cover catastrophic losses, not small losses.
- Generally, one comprehensive policy is better than a number of smaller ones.
- Always shop for a policy which is guaranteed renewable and non-cancelable.
- Never drop essential coverage until another policy is in force.
- Purchase insurance from a financially strong company.

Websites

Military Specific:

www.va.gov
www.tricare.osd.mil
www.ltcfeds.gov
www.insurance.va.gov

Consumer Information:

www.consumerworld.org
www.insurancefraud.org
www.iii.org
www.insweb.com
www.ambest.com
www.standardandpoors.com
www.naic.org
www.term4sale.com
www.accuquote.com
www.ssa.gov
www.quotesmith.com