What insurers want to know

To determine the price of your car insurance, insurers want to know the following information:

**Where you live**
If you live in a city, collisions and auto theft are more likely. This means higher premiums.

**Your age and gender**
Insurers group drivers based on the same characteristics like age, gender and driving record.

**Your car’s safety features**
This includes car alarms, number of air bags, etc.

**What you use your car for and how often you drive**
The more you drive your car, the higher the collision risk.

**What car you drive**
Your car’s make, model, year, value and potential repair costs are all taken into account.

**Your driving history and that of other household drivers**
This includes any claims (collisions, theft), tickets and other driving violations.

**Your level of driver’s license**
(G1, G2, G). This indicates driving experience.

For more information on the factors that affect your car insurance premium, contact Insurance Bureau of Canada at 1-800-387-2880, or visit us online at [www.ibc.ca](http://www.ibc.ca).

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Are you a young, first-time driver looking for insurance?

- **Shop around online.** Compare prices, coverage options and service. You may receive a discount just for being a student and requesting an online quote.

- **Choose a higher deductible** (the amount you pay in the event of an insurance claim) to lower your premium – *but make sure it’s one you can afford to pay if you’re involved in a collision.*

- **Go to driving school.** Some insurers may offer a discount if you’ve completed a certified driver’s education course approved by your Ministry of Transportation.

- **When it comes to insurance, the car you drive does matter.** Some models like four-door sedans are less popular with thieves. A car with a lower cost insurance rating will help keep your premium affordable.

- **On the honour roll?** Don’t keep it to yourself – *tell insurers about it!* You may be eligible for a reduced premium if you maintain a certain average and provide transcripts as evidence.

- **Put safety first.** A car with approved safety features like anti-lock brakes, air bags, a tracking system or car alarm is less likely to be stolen or involved in a collision = lower premium.

- **Piggyback onto your parents’ insurance policy** as an occasional driver if you don’t plan on driving that often. A young, occasional driver will pay a lower premium than a young, principal driver. *Even if you’re buying your own car, get a quote from your parents’ insurer first – discounts may be given for having more than one car on the same policy.*

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*The best way to low premiums? Drive carefully to stay collision and conviction-free.*