



What do I need to get an insurance quote?

The more information, the better.

Whether you are transferring your insurance from another province, seeking to change insurers or owning a car for the first time, the process of getting an insurance quote can be daunting. In general, the more the insurer knows about you and your driving record, the better off you will be, even if your record is less than perfect. Full disclosure at the beginning will save any risk of misrepresentation if you do need to make a claim in the future.

This is an area where your broker can be of particular assistance, helping you to navigate the terrain. There are three main categories of information required:

1. Information about you

- Names of the drivers of the vehicle to be insured. This usually includes all licensed members of your household since it is assumed that they will use the car. Provide their names as shown on their license, the number of years licensed and the percentage of time they will use the vehicle.
- Driving records of all applicants will be screened to identify applicants with

undesirable driving records. This will include driving convictions in the last three years and accident claims in the last six years.

- Insurance history for the preceding three to six years must be provided, including any cancelled, declined or refused insurance.
- License history of all listed drivers must be provided for the preceding six years, including suspensions, cancellations or lapses.
- In provinces that have public insurance, all required information is already captured by the government.

2. Information about the vehicle

Full information about the make, model and year are required as well as the Vehicle Identification Number or VIN. Also, include the details of a lease if you have one, the purchase value, whether new or used, and the value of any modifications to the vehicle. Include vehicle ownership. If any other party has a financial interest in the vehicle, this should be recorded so they are protected in the event of a loss.

3. Information about your coverage requirements

Finally, you will need to provide information of how the vehicle will be used. Is it for pleasure or business? If it is for commuting, what is the daily estimated distance? What will the annual distance be? If for business use, will you be carrying paying passengers, renting the car out to others or transporting any goods? You will also need to indicate your choices regarding your coverage, for example, your preferred deductible, liability limit and coverage for any special situations, including storing the car or driving in the U.S.

Getting your application right can have a significant impact on your premiums. Be sure to ask your broker for advice and help.

