

# CUT YOUR INSURANCE BILL

## Maximum cover, minimum cost

**Fed up with paying high insurance premiums, but not sure what you can do to cut the bill? Our checklist will help you to do everything you can to save money.**

- Change your car.** If your insurance premium is too much, the simplest way to cut it is to change to a car in a lower insurance bracket. All cars are rated on a scale of one to 50, with one being the cheapest to cover. For example, a Vauxhall Corsa 1.0-litre will fall in the first bracket, while a Porsche 911 is at the opposite end of the scale.
- Keep it safe.** It's a bit drastic to move home to cut your insurance premium, but you can save money by making sure your car is safe. Inner-city areas attract the highest premiums, so clear your garage out and lock your car up at night, or put it on your driveway to attract a small discount.
- Fit theft deterrents.** Items such as a Thatcham Category 1 immobiliser will impress your insurer. Kit like this isn't cheap, though, so weigh up the cost against the long-term insurance saving.
- Judge your risk.** Insurers give you the option of selecting how much of each claim you will pay in the event of an incident. This is called the excess, and it may vary from as much as £100 to £1000 – it's up to you to select what suits you best. The higher the excess, the lower the premium.
- Quibble.** When your renewal letter arrives, contact your insurer. Tell it you're unhappy with the quote and intend to switch provider unless it can find you a better deal. It almost always will.
- Shop around.** Put in as much time and effort as you can to look around insurance providers and see what deals are available. Use price comparison websites such as moneysupermarket.com or confused.com to get several quotes at once, and try insurance brokers, too.
- Check – then check again.** Even if the quote from the comparison site or broker sounds tempting, go directly to the insurance company it is recommending and see if it will beat the deal. It is sometimes cheaper to deal directly.
- Don't double up.** Check your existing warranty and breakdown contracts carefully, because your insurer may be offering – and charging you for – the same services. If your breakdown cover will pay for a hotel room if you break down, don't pay for the same cover again on your insurance.
- Be accurate.** Work out how many miles a year you cover, rather than guess – there's no point in paying for 20,000 miles of cover if you only drive 15,000 miles each year.
- Tailor the deal to you.** When working out your quote, some insurers will take into account the number of years you've been driving, even if you've been a named driver on someone else's policy. This is an ideal way for young drivers to build up a no-claims discount while on their parent's policy.
- Become a better driver.** The Pass Plus course was designed by the Driving Standards Agency with the help of insurers and the driving instruction industry, and some insurers will offer discounts to motorists who have successfully passed the course.