



Are You Covered?

With such a vast array of insurance brokers and companies specialising in the field of motor insurance it is little wonder we all get frustrated when our car insurance renewal is imminent.

It is worth doing a simple exercise before you pick up the phone or click on the mouse. Write down 8 things that you want from your car insurance that will make sure the policy suits your requirements and lifestyle.

I am sure that at the top of the list you will have written “low cost”!! That’s understandable, as everyone wants to know they have got the best deal. But what is the best deal? They say in life ‘you get what you pay for’ and this certainly applies to your motor insurance cover. The main reason for having motor insurance is to provide protection so that in the event of a claim you know you will be looked after. For that reason it is certainly advisable to give some thought to elements of cover over and above just the price.

Somewhere near the top of your list really should be “What happens in the event of a claim?” “Can I choose who repairs my car?” “Will original manufacturers’ parts be used?” “What settlement figure will I get in the event of a total loss?” Think about aspects like how you would cope if you lost the use of your car for a period of time. Clearly having several cars in your household will make a ‘courtesy car’ less important than if you rely on your car to keep you mobile.

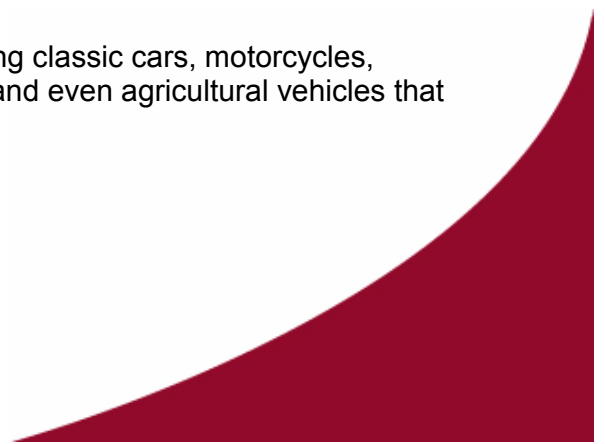
Other things that you might like to consider as part of your top 8 are shown below:-

Agreed value – Not just for classic cars! This valuable feature can also be available on modern cars. You will be able to lock in the value of your car for the term of the policy.

Limited Mileage – If you do a low annual mileage some insurers will offer limited mileage discounts. However, if you are unsure of your mileage it is not wise to take out a policy that will become void should you exceed this. Always ask the question “What happens if I exceed my mileage limitation?”

Family Fleet – These policies are becoming more popular and are available for two or more cars. Once set up you will have one renewal date for all your cars, you may also benefit from multi-vehicle discounts.

These policies will cover all sorts of vehicles including classic cars, motorcycles, motorhomes, horseboxes, domestic utility vehicles and even agricultural vehicles that are used for private purposes.





Breakdown Cover – Many insurers will have a breakdown package that can be added to your motor policy and this can be very cost effective. Just make sure that it is with a reliable company and check the small print for any exclusion specifically if the cover is for Europe.

Driving other cars or Any Driver cover – We never know what is round the corner and there may be times where either you need to drive someone else's car or you wish someone to drive yours. Most policies covering higher value luxury or sports cars will restrict the policy to named and approved drivers, which can hamper your lifestyle.

Some insurers will tailor a policy to include comprehensive cover to drive other people's cars plus remove some of the driving restrictions enabling you to allow your friends to drive your car.

Your Choice of Repairer – Certain cars require special attention if damaged. Many insurers will insist that you use one of their recommended repairers in the event of a claim. There are insurers who will allow you to choose which garage your car goes to in the event of an accident.

Courtesy Car – We purchase our cars for a reason. Some need to drive a four wheel drive vehicle, some need a people carrier, and an executive drives a luxury car as clients expect nothing less! If this is the case then in the event of a claim you need to make sure that your insurer will provide you with a suitable courtesy car, and not a standard hatchback which is all too often the norm.

Payment options – You should consider how you want to pay for your cover. Many insurance companies will have policies offering a monthly direct debit option; some may even be interest free.

These are just a few pointers that should assist you in having a clearer idea about important aspects of your car insurance policy. Never settle for a policy that does not meet your requirements just to save a few pounds, it will only cost you in the long run should you have to make a claim.

Oval Private Clients specialise in the providing tailored solutions to private individuals who have more complex personal insurance requirements. Our dedicated client managers will be on hand to guide you through the minefield of products that are available in the insurance market place and recommend a policy that meets or exceeds your demands and needs.

