

# Personal Auto Insurance: *What to know about your coverage*

*We have answers to frequently-asked questions about what is covered – and what isn't – under most standard personal auto insurance policies.*

**Q:** Are there different types of personal auto insurance?

**A:** Yes. Different types include Bodily Injury Liability, Property Damage Liability, Personal Injury Protection (PIP), Collision Coverage, Comprehensive Coverage, Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Coverage and Towing/Rental Car Reimbursement.

**TIP:** Not sure what's covered in your auto policy? Start with a call to your insurance agent or company for help.

**Q:** Are all types of auto insurance automatically included in one personal auto policy?

**A:** No. Insurance requirements vary by state but most states require you to carry a minimum amount of **Liability coverage**. Collision and Comprehensive coverage are optional and are not required by law, but may be required by your lender or leasing company if your vehicle is financed or leased.

**Q:** If my car is stolen, will my auto insurance pay to replace it?

**A:** Yes, but only if you have optional **Comprehensive coverage**.

**Q:** If I hit a pothole, strike a deer or a rock cracks my windshield, how are those covered?

**A:** Optional **Collision coverage** will cover damage to your vehicle from potholes. But tire damage is specifically excluded from your auto policy, whether it's from a pothole, nail or sharp rock. **Comprehensive coverage** will pay for damages caused by hitting a deer. As for windshield damage, Comprehensive or **Full Glass coverage** (available in some states) will help protect you from the cost of fixing or replacing your windshield.

**Q:** If my garage burns down, which policy covers damages to my car - Homeowners or Auto?

**A:** Your auto insurance policy will cover damage to your vehicle only if **Comprehensive coverage** is included as part of your policy. The same applies for **scooter, moped and motorcycle insurance** policies.

## The “Big Five” Personal Auto Insurance Policies

**Bodily Injury Liability** is **mandatory** in most states and provides coverage for injury or death claims made against you or any driver if your vehicle is involved in an auto accident.

**Property Damage Liability** also is **mandatory** in most states and provides coverage for damage to the property of others caused by you or any driver of your vehicle. Both Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability pay up to the dollar limit you’ve purchased and the cost of legal defense.

**Personal Injury Protection (PIP)** pays for the treatment of injuries to the driver and passengers of the policyholder’s car. It may also cover lost wages, funeral costs and other related expenses. Some states require this type of coverage.

**Uninsured Motorist Coverage** reimburses you when an accident is caused by an uninsured driver, while **Underinsured motorist coverage** will help cover costs when another driver lacks adequate coverage to pay for your loss.

**Collision** and **Comprehensive Coverage** are optional policies that pay to repair or replace your vehicle if it is damaged in an accident, or by a storm, for example; or if your car is stolen or damaged by vandalism.

**Q:** Do I need to add my children to my auto policy if they have their driver’s license but never drive my car?

**A:** It’s hard to guarantee that your kids will never need to drive your car, especially in an emergency. To keep you and your family protected, all licensed drivers in your household should have their own policy or be added to yours. Often, it is more cost-effective to add your children to your own policy even when they are driving their own vehicles.

**Q:** My laptop was stolen from my vehicle. Will my auto policy cover the loss?

**A:** No. Your **Homeowners (or Renters) insurance** policy generally will cover personal property stolen from your vehicle, subject to your deductible.

**Q:** If I get in an accident and can’t drive my car, will my auto policy pay for a rental car?

**A:** **Rental Reimbursement coverage** is not always included in auto insurance policies. You can add it to your policy (at an additional cost) to help you rent a car if your vehicle is in the body shop for repairs from a covered loss. But don’t wait to add this to your policy – check with your agent or company to see what coverage you have **before** an accident occurs.

**Q:** Is towing included in my auto policy?

**A:** Most Auto Insurance policies do not automatically cover towing. Check your policy or call your insurance company or agent to verify if you have towing coverage and what is included.

**Q:** When I rent a car, do I need to buy insurance from the rental company?

**A:** Typically, your **Auto coverage** extends to rental cars. In most cases, whatever coverage and deductibles you have on your own car will apply to a rental car. If you plan to rent a car, call your agent or insurance company first to find out how much and what types of coverage you currently have and whether that coverage extends to your rental car.

