



#InsureWisely

Insure yourself wisely: motor insurance

If you own a vehicle in Europe you are legally obliged to have motor insurance. Even if your car, motorbike or moped is off the road and you do not use it, in most countries you are still required to insure it.

You may find the topic of motor insurance a little daunting, so here are five areas to focus on to ensure that your vehicle has the cover you need, that you drive safely and that you know what to do when you have an accident.

Choosing the right policy for you



It is worth doing a little research to find the motor policy that best suits your needs.

Motor third-party liability (MTPL) insurance is compulsory in the EU and is the minimum cover required. It provides financial protection against claims for physical damage and/or bodily injury resulting from road accidents.

Comprehensive motor insurance offers additional financial protection for first-party losses and, in some cases, fire, theft and breakdown services.

Make sure you don't just focus on the price of the policy; pay attention as well to what exactly it covers. If you are unsure what level of cover you need for how you use your vehicle, check with your insurer.

Safety first



In these increasingly connected times, drivers can be easily distracted. When you are on the road — whether alone or with passengers — driving safely should always be your top priority. Keep in mind, for instance, that checking your smartphone while driving is not only banned across Europe, but also the cause of many accidents.

Appropriate vehicle maintenance is important, especially in winter, when rain, snow and ice can make driving more hazardous.

Make sure you prepare your vehicle for the winter and adapt your driving to the conditions. Some motor policies (or indeed national laws) require you to fit winter tyres, for instance, so check the terms and conditions of your policy carefully.

What to do if you have an accident



If you are involved in an accident, collect as much information as possible about the other vehicle's owner and driver, ideally by filling in the European Accident Statement (EAS) or an equivalent form or mobile application from your insurer.

The EAS ensures that the parties to an accident exchange the relevant information and, if possible, agree on how the accident occurred. It is available in multiple languages, which all follow the same format and question order to facilitate the exchange of information.

If you have an accident abroad, please refer to the [InsureWisely step-by-step guide](#).

Letting others drive your vehicle



You should let your insurer know if you would like your family or friends to be able to drive your vehicle, as they may not be covered by your motor insurance policy.

In some cases, their own motor insurance may cover them, but they should always check the terms and conditions of their policy or speak to their insurer first.

Exploring new options



Technological advances are changing the landscape for motor insurance.

From the use of telematics and "pay-as-you-drive"/"pay-how-you-drive" policies to connected and automated vehicles, new technologies mean that motor insurers are constantly updating their products to meet the needs of consumers and devising innovative services in and around the vehicle. Why not explore some of them?

Online ride-sharing and peer-to-peer car-sharing platforms create new possibilities you may want to explore. However, they change the nature of the insurance cover that you require, so make sure you inform your insurer.

Your existing motor insurance policy may not cover you, but new products are constantly being developed to cater for the evolving needs of customers.

