

Comprehensive Coverage – What Is It and Do I Need It?

Comprehensive Auto Insurance Protects You from Many Hazards

If you're in a car accident, chances are your auto insurance will cover the repairs. But if your car is stolen, stuck in a hail storm or under water on a flooded road, will you be protected? You will be if you have comprehensive coverage on your car insurance policy.

Comprehensive coverage is different from collision coverage, which covers you in an accident whether you or someone else is at fault. Comprehensive coverage is sometimes called "other than collision" because it protects you for most non-accident types of damage, such as theft, vandalism or fire.

What Does Comprehensive Cover?

The most common cause of loss covered under comprehensive car insurance is theft. Auto theft ranks high in crime statistics year after year across the country. If your car is stolen, it's upsetting and inconvenient, to say the least. Maybe you're lucky and your car is recovered, but it could have been stripped of parts or damaged to the point of being inoperable. Comprehensive auto insurance pays to fix or replace a vehicle that has been stolen.

Other examples of damage covered under comprehensive auto insurance coverage include:

- **Weather events:** Your vehicle may be damaged in a flood, struck by lightning, or a hail storm may leave the exterior of the vehicle covered in thousands of tiny dents.
- **Damage by other parties, not a collision:** This can be either intentional or accidental. A vandal may slash your tires or scrape the side panels with a keying or other sharp object. Maybe your neighbor's tree falls on your car, or painters are working nearby and overspray damages the paint. The potential for damage to your vehicle is limitless.
- **Fire:** There is no coverage for vehicle damage provided under standard homeowners insurance policies. Even if your house burns to the ground while your car is in the garage, your homeowners policy most likely excludes payment for any damage to your vehicle. In this scenario, coverage for fire damage to your car falls under comprehensive coverage.

You can't possibly imagine all the different ways your vehicle can be damaged, but you can minimize your risk with comprehensive car insurance coverage.

Comprehensive Coverage Pays Regardless of Fault

The comprehensive coverage on your car insurance policy will pay (less your deductible) to repair your car even if you unintentionally caused the damage. If you have inflicted intentional damage on your car, your insurance normally will not pay, for obvious reasons.

If someone else is responsible for the damage, the comprehensive coverage part of your car insurance policy will pay to fix or replace your vehicle (less the deductible). The insurance company will then try to recover the cost from any responsible party who may have their own

liability insurance that will cover the damage. Recovering the cost for the damage will remove the cost of the claim from your loss history.

Do I Need Comprehensive Coverage?

If you financed your car, you may be required to have comprehensive insurance. But even if a lender is not requiring comprehensive coverage, the insurance provides important protection on a vital asset, your vehicle, which can be very expensive to repair or replace. Ask yourself how you will handle transportation if your car is stolen or damaged and you do not have comprehensive coverage to replace or repair it.

Protect Yourself and Your Vehicle

Almost no one plans on having their vehicle stolen or damaged, and since thieves and vandals rely on the element of surprise and stormy weather patterns can strike without warning, it's nearly impossible to predict when your car will be affected. With comprehensive coverage, you will be protected from these unforeseen events.

As your independent insurance agent, we can help you be prepared and find the best value based on your individual needs. Contact us today to go over your options and to design the best protection for you: 800-289-1501 or www.haylor.com/personal/auto