

Filing an Insurance Claim?

ALBERTA

IBC  BAC

Automobile

We hope you never have a collision but if you do, here's what you should know:



- ☐ **Record collision details** about how, when, and where it happened, including the time, date, location, speed, weather and road conditions. Take note of the other driver's name, address, phone number, driver's licence number and vehicle licence plate number. Record the names and contact information of independent witnesses and passengers in the other car and injuries they may have sustained. If a police officer attends the scene, note the officer's name and badge number.
- ☐ **Keep supporting documents and insurance details**, such as photos, towing bills, the other driver's insurance information (including the name of the insurance company and the policy number). If police come to the scene, a motor vehicle accident report is usually prepared by the police officer. Keep the police report number and if possible, a copy of the report. In Alberta, if damages are minor, under \$2000, and there are no injuries, a police report will not be filed. Instead, you will receive a collision report when you provide details to police.
- ☐ **Call your insurer as soon as possible.** Describe the circumstances of the collision as carefully as you can.
- ☐ **You must give notice in writing to your insurance company** promptly after the collision. For minor injury claims, you will be required to complete an AB-1 form within 10 days of the collision.
- ☐ **If you are claiming for loss or damage to your automobile, you must complete a written declaration (proof of loss)** within 90 days of the collision. If you don't make a claim within this time, your insurer may not be legally bound to honour it.
- ☐ **Your insurer will determine fault for the collision, based on provincial legislation and other factors**, and let you know what the next steps are to have the damage evaluated and the automobile repaired or replaced. If your car is stolen or vandalized, you will only be indemnified if you purchased specified perils, comprehensive or all perils coverage.
- ☐ **A claims specialist or adjuster/appraiser may contact you to examine the damage** to your car. You will be given the opportunity to come to an agreement regarding the amount of your loss or damage. Your insurer will also determine the repair or replacement terms and conditions, depending on your coverage.
- ☐ **Discuss with your insurer whether you can use a garage of your choice** to repair your car. Make sure that the garage repairing your car respects the price and specifications agreed upon with your insurer.

Home

We hope you never have to file a claim but if you do, here's what you should know:



❑ **Make sure your family and pets are safe.**

❑ **Make a complete list of all damaged, destroyed or stolen items.** If possible, attach proofs of purchase, receipts, police reports, owner's manuals and warranties for lost or damaged items. Take photos of damaged items and attach those as well. Keep ruined items, unless they are dangerous or otherwise pose a health hazard. It's best to create a home inventory list and update it accordingly before you experience a loss.

❑ **Call your insurer as soon as you can.** You are required to do this. Be as detailed as possible regarding the circumstances and subsequent damage. Most insurance companies have a 24-hour claims service. Keep your insurer's contact information handy at all times.

❑ **If your home is unfit to live in, ask your insurer about what expenses you're entitled to** and for what period of time. Keep all receipts and invoices for additional living expenses following your loss.

❑ **A claims specialist or adjuster will contact you to investigate** the circumstance of the loss, examine all the documents you provide and explain the next steps in the process.

❑ **Your insurance company will ask you to complete a declaration of damages, or "proof of loss."** This form lists what property and/or items have been damaged or lost, with the value or cost of the damage or loss. You must sign and swear that the statements you make are true. If any of the statements are untrue, your insurance may be voided. Usually, the declaration of damages or proof of loss must be completed and returned to your insurance company within 30 days.

❑ **Review your policy carefully** to ensure you are familiar with specified deductibles, coverage limits and basis of settlement. Insurance companies generally offer three options for your damaged or stolen items: repair, replace or reimburse. Your policy requires that you take steps to limit further damage.

❑ **Discuss with your insurer whether you can use a contractor or supplier** of your choice to do any repairs, and if so, the amounts to be paid. Make sure that the contractor or supplier respects the price and specifications agreed upon with your insurer.

Questions about insurance? Call us.

Insurance Bureau of Canada

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09/15