



INSURANCE UPDATE

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Things to Remember When Changing Jobs

Chances are you will experience a job change at some point during your working life. Typically, a job change is an exciting event. However, it can create unplanned financial stress and an overwhelming transition. According to a survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average person changes jobs 10 to 15 times during his or her career.

Before accepting a new job offer, you should take the time to evaluate the differences in your existing benefits package versus your new benefits package. To simplify this process, here are some key items you should evaluate:

- 1. Disability income coverage:** This provides you money if you were to become disabled for a short or long period of time. Does your new benefits package offer this coverage?

A short-term disability is typically defined as coverage for three to six months, whereas a long-term disability is more than six months. Keep in mind, disability income coverage is different than workers compensation coverage. Workers compensation will only provide coverage if you are injured at the workplace.

Disability income coverage typically covers an individual 24/7, on and off the job. If it's not offered, you may want to consider purchasing an individual policy.

- 2. Life Insurance coverage:** Does your new benefits package offer life insurance coverage? Is the coverage enough to cover your mortgage and other bills? If not, you may want to consider purchasing an individual life insurance policy.

Also, it is never too early to start thinking about retirement. Typically, your work-provided life insurance policy expires when you retire. Purchasing an individual life insurance policy while you are young and healthy may be a more affordable option and follow you into retirement.

- 3. Retirement plan:** Did your previous benefits package offer a 401K or some type of savings plan for retirement? If so, typically those funds will need to be distributed to you or transferred to another plan. In most situations, transferring those funds is best because it negates taxation and IRS penalties, as well as continues to save those funds for retirement.

Does your new package offer a retirement plan? If not, exploring the options of an individual retirement plan or annuity coverages may be beneficial to continue to save for your retirement.

Changing jobs is a major life event. As with all your major life events, we are here to discuss your options. Contact our agency to review your life, health and annuity coverages today.



Your Insurance Anytime, Anywhere

We live in an information age where we have endless amounts of knowledge available to us, and have expectations of information on demand. The Auto-Owners Insurance Customer Center meets those needs by giving you online access to your policy anytime, anywhere.

Benefits of the Customer Center:

- No longer receive paper bills or policies by going paperless (*Auto certificates of insurance are still mailed to you*)
- Access policy documents and auto certificates of insurance
- Road Trouble Service assistance
- View, access and upload current claim information

By going paperless for your policy and bills, you can save \$5 on each eligible policy at renewal. This can be setup when you first enroll in Customer Center or by changing your options to paperless if you are already enrolled.

Accessing your policy couldn't be easier! From full policy documents to auto certificates of insurance and Road Trouble Service cards, you can find all of your policy documents in the Customer Center. Aside from viewing your policy documents, you can also make a payment or update your payment preferences.

The Customer Center also gives you contact information for roadside assistance, and the Auto-Owners mobile app allows you to request roadside assistance right from your device!

If you have a recent claim and would like to know the status, you can view that information in the Customer Center. Simply go to "View Claim" from the claims menu for the most up-to-date claim details and for contact information for your claim adjuster. You can also upload and download documents related to your claim, which helps speed up the claim-handling process.

So how do you enroll in the Customer Center? Go to the Auto-Owners website, auto-owners.com, click the "Log In" link, choose "Enroll," and enter your policy number and ZIP code.

You can also download the Auto-Owners mobile app to your devices from the Google and Apple app stores. All of the same great features are available within the Auto-Owners mobile app.

Auto-Owners Customer Center makes managing all of your insurance policies a breeze!

Technology That Benefits Your Auto Fleet

Employees driving your vehicles are an exposure to your business, but how do you monitor them when they are on the road? Some of the tools available are fleet monitoring devices (*telematics*) and in-cab cameras.

These can help with improving your fleet's efficiency, effectiveness and safety. Let's look at some of the ways:

Keep your fleet on **SCHEDULE**

- Telematics have Global Positioning Systems (*GPS*) and the ability to send, receive and store information. They can locate a vehicle via the internet or phone application.
- GPS can help drivers safely follow delivery schedules and routes.
- Routing maps allow you to change routes and avoid potential delays.

Keep your fleet up to date on **MAINTENANCE**

- Stored data can help make vehicles more reliable by predicting issues and determining a maintenance schedule, which will keep drivers on the road without unexpected downtime.
- Regularly maintained vehicles are less likely to break down when you need them most.

Keep your fleet drivers **SAFE**

- Telematics detect the speed of the vehicle and monitor extreme and erratic driving habits, such as harsh acceleration and braking.
- Telematics data and camera footage bring awareness to driver performance. This provides an opportunity to reward drivers for good driving habits and helps to identify training opportunities for risky behaviors.

Keep **MONEY** in your pocket

- Preventing motor vehicle collisions can represent a significant savings in terms of employee and vehicle downtime, medical costs from employees injured in crashes, and potential lawsuits from auto accidents.
- In today's climate, juries awarding large penalties is an all-too-real trend. Telematics and cameras can provide additional information to assist in the review of your potential accidents.
- You may qualify for a Fleet Monitoring discount on your Auto-Owners Insurance commercial auto policy.

To learn more about the Fleet Monitoring discount, please contact our agency.





Flexible Payment Options That Work for You

Auto-Owners offers a variety of billing options to pay your insurance premiums. These include Full Pay, Semi-Annual, Quarterly, and Monthly. Any of these can be requested with a new policy or any time after your policy is in effect.

You may also choose a payment due date that works best for your schedule. Due-date options include any calendar date 1 through 28.

Auto-Owners premium invoices are mailed or emailed 20 days prior to the due date. Invoices are sent to the address that is on the policy, unless an alternate address is requested.

There are several different options to pay your bill:

- You can pay by electronic funds transfer (EFT), credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover) or check.
- If you prefer to pay online, visit auto-owners.com for access to the Pay Now system (for quick one-time payments), or enroll in the Customer Center for full access to policy, billing and claim information.
- If you are more comfortable calling Auto-Owners to make your payment, you can do so at 800.288.8740, option 3, to make a credit card payment using the automated system. This free system is available 24/7.
- Billing representatives are also available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. EST, and for a fee, will take your EFT or credit card payment over the phone.
- Making payments can be even easier with auto-pay; ask our agency about automatic EFT or credit card payment options.

Please contact our office for more information about your billing and payment options.