

# The After-an-Accident Checklist

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A calm, step-by-step list of what to do at the scene and in the days after a car accident. Keep it in your glovebox.

## At the scene (if everyone is safe)

Take a breath. Your first job is safety, then information. Repairs come later.

- Check that everyone is OK. Call your local emergency number if anyone is hurt.

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- Move vehicles out of traffic if you safely can, and turn on hazard lights.

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- Photograph every vehicle's damage from several angles, plus the wider scene.

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- Photograph license plates, the road, traffic signs, and any skid marks.

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- Get the other driver's name, phone, insurance company, and policy number.

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- Note the time, location, weather, and the names and numbers of any witnesses.

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- If police come, ask how to get a copy of the accident report.

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- Do not admit fault or agree to settle on the spot.

## In the next few days

- File a claim with your insurer (and the other driver's insurer if they were at fault).

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- Write down your claim number and your adjuster's name and number.

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- Get a written repair estimate before any work starts.

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  - Compare estimates from more than one shop if you can.

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  - Ask whether parts will be OEM, aftermarket, or used, and what the warranty is.

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  - Confirm whether your car is safe to drive in the meantime.

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  - Keep every receipt, photo, and document together in one folder.

**Remember**

You choose who repairs your car. CollisionLane can match you, free, with trusted local auto body shops so you can compare and decide.

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This is a free, educational worksheet from CollisionLane ([collisionlane.com](http://collisionlane.com)). It is general information, not legal or insurance advice. Always confirm details with your insurer and a licensed auto body shop, and get a written estimate before any work starts. Costs and timelines vary by your car, the damage, parts, and your area.