

Total Loss Definition:

When the cost of repairing a vehicle to pre-loss condition plus a standard supplement factor (15-30% of the vehicles value), exceeds the fair market value of the vehicle.

Example Total Loss Scenario:

Estimate for repairs.....\$9,000
*25% Supplement factor.....\$2,250
Total repair cost.....\$11,250

Versus

Fair Market Value of vehicle.....\$11,000

What To Do When Your Vehicle Is A

TOTAL LOSS



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We're here to help.



Vehicle Valuation Assistance

Do any of us really know what our vehicles are worth? The vehicle's fair market value can depend on the time of year, supply and demand, condition of the vehicle, mileage, plus many other variables. The value may even change depending on who you talk to.

So Who or What do you trust?

We have put together some resources to help assist you in determining the value of your vehicle.

#1 - Valuation Websites:

National Auto Dealers Association offers a guide where you choose the Consumer section and fill in the requested information regarding your vehicle and it will offer you a range depending upon your vehicle's condition. Most cars are considered average and sell at average retail.

Kelly Blue Book offers a similar guide where you choose the appropriate used or new car section and then find the value range based on the make and model of your vehicle.

#2 - Loan Value:

Call your lending institution and they will give you a loan value of the vehicle to assist you.

#3 - Valuation Considerations:

There are several factors to keep in mind when searching these sites to determine values.

- Condition of your vehicle.
- Aftermarket accessories on your vehicle – it is best to hunt down receipts for these items or find pictures of these items on your vehicle.
- Consult experts to aid in negotiating these betterment related items. Insurers need to return the vehicle to the same shape and form, so they claim a 100% replacement value is not warranted, so they reduce the offer by a betterment factor.
- Your ability to negotiate with the adjuster based on the above information.

Vehicle Inspection Service:

Some shops offer services that can save you thousands of dollars and a lot of heartache and grief. Make sure to ask before settling with your loss.

Suggested Services:

If you decide to purchase a used vehicle, take a moment and go over these suggestions.

- Ask for a CarFax report on the vehicle. This will report if the vehicle was involved in any accidents and can be useful when doing other inspections.
- Have a mechanic inspect a used vehicle for engine and drive train condition.
- Have a collision repair center inspect the frame & body for previous collisions. This could save lives. If the frame or structure is not repaired to manufacturer recommendations and tolerances, then major safety issues arise. The vehicle may not perform as designed if you were to get into another collision.

