1 Required coverage

2 Map risks

3 Set limits

4 Research providers

5 Compare quotes

6 Review policy

7 Review changes

Welding Contractor Insurance Buying Checklist

moneygeek
FIND YOUR FINANCIAL HAPPY PLACE

1. Identify the Insurance You're Required to Carry

Start with the rules tied to where you work and the contracts you accept.

Business snapshot

Business name _____

State(s) / city(s) where you work _____

Employees _____

Main welding work _____

Business-owned vehicle? _____

Commercial / GC jobs? _____

Requirement checks

- ☐ I checked workers' comp requirements for my employee setup.
- ☐ I checked any state or local insurance rules tied to my welding work.
- ☐ I confirmed whether a business-owned vehicle needs commercial auto coverage.
- ☐ I reviewed client or GC insurance requirements before quoting the job.

Client and contract requirements

Requirement	Required?	Limit / wording	Who requires it?
General liability			
Workers' comp proof			
Commercial auto			
Certificate of insurance (COI)			
Additional insured status			
Other			

STARTING POINT

Treat legal and contract requirements as your baseline. Page 2 helps you find risks that still need protection even when nobody requires it.

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2. Match Your Welding Risks to the Right Coverage

Look beyond required insurance and match the property or unfinished work you need to protect.

What needs protection in your operation?

- ☐ My welding machines travel between jobsites.
- ☐ I keep equipment or materials at a dedicated shop.
- ☐ I sometimes leave gear in a work vehicle between jobs.
- ☐ I fabricate components before installing them onsite.
- ☐ I transport finished or partly finished work to clients.
- ☐ Other: _____

Match the exposure to coverage

What could happen?	Coverage to investigate	Applies to me?	Question to ask
Portable welding gear is stolen or damaged away from the shop	Tools and equipment		
Shop equipment or materials are damaged at your premises	Commercial property		
Fabricated work is damaged before installation is complete	Installation floater		

Coverage questions I still need answered:

RISK CHECK

Addcoveragebecause a real loss could affect your welding business, not because it appears on a generic insurance list.

3. Set Limits Around What You Could Actually Lose

Use required minimums as the floor, then set coverage around a realistic loss and today's replacement costs.

How large could one loss get?

Most expensive customer property I regularly work around _____

Highest liability limit a client requires _____

Largest job I normally take on _____

Current cost to replace my welding setup _____

Coverage limits

Coverage	Required minimum	Current / quoted limit	Limit I plan to buy	Why this amount fits
General liability				
Tools and equipment				
Commercial auto				
Workers' comp				
Commercial property				
Installation floater				

Replacement cost check - price it today

Equipment	Qty.	Replacement cost each	Total value
Welding machine / power source			
Portable generator			
Torches, leads or feeders			
Grinders, cutters or other portable tools			
Other			

Estimated total replacement value: _____

LIMIT CHECK

Usewhat it would cost to replace property now, not what you paid years ago. Outdated values can leave part of a major loss uninsured.

4. Check Whether a Provider Fits the Work You Actually Do

Confirm the insurer will cover your welding activities before you spend time comparing quotes.

Work I need the insurer to confirm

- ☐ Light fabrication or repair work
- ☐ Structural welding
- ☐ Pipeline welding
- ☐ Shop fabrication
- ☐ Mobile / field welding
- ☐ Subcontracted welding work

IF HIGHER-RISK WORK APPLIES

Askwhethertheinsurercoversthatwelding activity under its standard contractor program or whether you need a different carrier.

What matters most to me

Priority	What "good" looks like for my business
___	Fast COI access
___	Easy policy changes
___	Clear claims support
___	Mostly self-service management
___	Access to a licensed expert when I want help
___	Ability to keep several policies with one insurer

Providers worth quoting

Provider	Why I'm considering it	What I still need confirmed

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5. Compare Quotes on the Same Terms

Keeptheinputsconsistentsoalowerpremiumisn'tsimplybuyingless protection.

Use consistent business details

Annual revenue _____

Employee count _____

Payroll _____

Field vs. shop work mix _____

Equipment replacement value _____

Deductible requested _____

Coverage setup I want quoted

- ☐ General liability
- ☐ Tools and equipment
- ☐ Commercial auto
- ☐ Workers' comp
- ☐ Commercial property
- ☐ Installation floater
- ☐ Cyber insurance
- ☐ Other: _____

Quote comparison

Comparison point	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Provider			
Monthly / annual premium			
General liability limit			
Deductible			
Tools limit			
Commercial property limit			
Installation floater included?			
Required endorsements included?			
Welding activities covered?			
Anything missing?			

PRICE CHECK

If one quote leaves out a coverage or limit you asked for, get it corrected before comparing premiums.

6. Read the Policy for Restrictions That Affect Your Work

Check the final wording before you buy, especially where welding activities or equipment can be restricted.

Final policy check

- ☐ My business name and welding operations are listed correctly.
- ☐ Required additional insured wording is included.
- ☐ My equipment values reflect today's replacement cost.
- ☐ The limits match the quote I approved.
- ☐ Coverage starts before my next required job.
- ☐ I know who to contact if I have a claim.

Exclusions and wording to check

Question	What the policy says	Resolved?
Does the policy exclude structural, pipeline or other welding work I perform?		
How does completed-operations coverage apply after a welding job is finished?		
If I use subcontractors, does the policy cover their work or require their own insurance?		
Where does tools and equipment coverage apply - shop, vehicle or jobsite?		
What are the cancellation terms and notice requirements?		

BEFORE YOU BUY

Ifanexclusionordefinition is unclear, ask the insurer to explain it using a real welding job you perform.

7. Revisit Your Coverage When the Business Changes

Review coverage whenever the operation looks different from when you bought the policy, whether you add, remove or change work.

Changes that should trigger a review

- ☐ I hired an employee or returned to solo work.
- ☐ I moved toward or away from structural / pipeline jobs.
- ☐ I added or sold a work vehicle.
- ☐ I moved into or out of a dedicated shop.
- ☐ My equipment values changed substantially.
- ☐ I do more or less field work than before.
- ☐ I stopped offering a welding service.
- ☐ Other: _____

What changed since my last review?

Change	Date	Coverage affected	What I need to check

Current provider _____ Renewal date _____ Next review date _____

Why my current setup still fits:

REVIEW BOTH WAYS

A change can mean you need more protection, but it can also mean you're paying for coverage that no longer fits the welding business you run today.