

Stealing Old Cars and Hearts



Compared to newer cars, far fewer antique and classic cars are stolen, but some thieves actually specialize in them. For a car thief, time is valuable, as the chance of getting caught increases the longer it takes to get a car moving. Collector cars were designed with few if any anti-theft devices, especially the older they get. Ironically the [process needed to start](#) some of the really old cars can act as a deterrent, but a true professional thief might bring a trailer.

Once stolen, a classic car may have the VIN switched and be sold to an unsuspecting buyer. No one is immune, even famous people such as [Dr. Phil](#), and [John Schnatter](#), the founder of Papa John's pizza. Their cars were recovered but most are not as was the case of famous car enthusiast [Steven Juliano](#)'s distinctive '70 Plymouth Barracuda. If not resold in the U.S. the cars are either [chopped up for parts](#) or [shipped overseas](#). A handful of cars are recovered [years](#) or [decades](#) later and may have a [complicated chain of ownership](#). A few owners have tracked down the cars [on their own](#). Sadly, when recovered the cars are [rarely in the same condition](#) resulting in a bittersweet reunion, although there are cases where it's [even better](#).

Of course preventing theft is best and for classic cars that means layering the protection. The more layers between your client's car and a thief the better. Don't let your clients rely on thinking their classic car isn't worth enough to be a target. In fact, believing that you need to protect your classic car is usually the best first layer.

Proper insurance is essential as a standard auto policy doesn't address the needs of replacing or restoring a classic car and your client will want to know why their beloved car wasn't properly covered. The experts at Chubb **Collector Car** program understand the emotional attachment the owners of these cars have and the pain they experience when they are stolen or damaged. Chubb offers "Agreed Value" coverage that can increase with the value of the vehicle as well as a choice of body shop and no deductible on collector vehicles.

Chubb loves these vehicles so much that they sponsor car shows such as the upcoming [Pebble Beach Auctions](#) on August 18th and 19th. See the [Chubb Facebook page](#) for additional information.

Chubb's **Collector Car** program is a perfect solution when looking to properly insure rare and unique vehicles. Chubb can cover almost all of the classic and antique cars, trucks, tractors, fire trucks and even military vehicles*. New collector car risks will be entertained provided they meet the following guidelines:

- All operators in the household must have good driving records.
- The vehicle should not be operated by anyone under the age of 25.
- All operators should have experience operating similar vehicles (i.e., high performance).
- There is one regular-use vehicle per operator.
- The vehicle should be used primarily for collector car purposes.
- The vehicle should not be used during instruction, practice, preparation for, or participation in any competitive, prearranged or organized racing or speed contest.
- The vehicle is not used on a racetrack, test track or any other course of any kind.
- The vehicle is garaged.

The minimum vehicle age for eligibility is 30 years old; Chubb will consider these vehicles on a monoline basis. If pursuing a monoline policy, though, Chubb generally does not accept newer special interest cars, i.e. 2007 and later Shelby GT500 (top of the line Mustang), Corvettes, etc. While these newer special interest vehicles can certainly be considered part of a larger account situation, provided the usage and security are acceptable AND Chubb also writes the regular use vehicles. Some examples of cars not quite 30 years old that have qualified in the past: early '90s Mercedes SL's, Porsche's (911, 928), and Land Rover Defender 90's and 110's.



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Chubb's **Collector Car** program is available to members in all states except MA and SC. Learn more by stealing away to [Big "I" Markets](#).

Don't miss Jacquelyn Connelly's three-part series on covering collector cars in [IA](#). Read the [first](#) and [second](#) articles and watch for the third next Monday, August 14th.

* Tractors, fire trucks & military vehicles are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.