

Steps to Manage Your Credit



Keep utilization low. We recommend below 30% on each credit line individually and combined.

Always pay your credit on time. Pay it as quickly as possible if you missed a payment – lenders only report late payments over 30 days. If possible, make sure they get the money less than 30 days after it was due. Sending a check by mail on day 20 may be too late. Paying directly in an online portal is preferred, or it can be worth the fee for pay-by-phone to avoid a report on your credit.



Get your 3 FREE annual credit reports – one from each of the three bureaus at annualcreditreport.com (note: If the URL has the word "free" – only the first report is free, but you will be signing up for a PAID service!!!). We advise you to pull one report from a single bureau every four months. You can also open a free account with either CreditKarma.com or CreditSesame.com, which will provide up-to-date information from two of the three bureaus. However, you should be aware that these sites make money by soliciting services and serving advertisements – they potentially retain your credit (hopefully anonymized) credit/financial profile and sell it for profit.

Review all the information on the report. Most reports have SOME wrong information. It can be a misspelling of your name, an address you were never associated with, or incorrect collection accounts etc. We can clear minor items on a mortgage application with a simple letter of explanation. However, you will want to contact the bureaus and make sure any errors are corrected and cleared sooner or later.

