

Do Credit Repair Companies Work?

Many people are shocked to find out about their credit score when they need a loan for a car or apply for a mortgage on their house. In a recent survey, 13% of Americans polled by the [New York Post](#) had literally no idea what their credit score was. Many people think they know only to be blindsided by identity theft, divorce, or old accounts long forgotten.

The truth is, credit reporting is done by humans, and errors in data entry happen. The trouble is, when they happen to your credit report, that can cost you a lot of money or even cause you if you want to get a loan, rent an apartment or even apply for a job.

What should you do if you have recently discovered there is a problem when you try to get credit? The following blog will give you insight into how you can improve your credit, what a credit repair company can do for you and how to find a good one if you need to.

Image:

<https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1560520653-9e0e4c89eb11?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=MnwxMjA3fDB8MHxwaG90by1wYWdlfHx8fGVufDB8fHx8&auto=format&fit=crop&w=773&q=80>

Can I Repair My Own Credit?

Yes, you can improve your own credit. However, if you have credit problems due to unpaid bills, late payments, and charge-offs, nothing can be done to remove them legally. Hiring a credit repair company will not change this.

However, if you have negative items on your credit report that are inaccurate, you can correct them. You can do this yourself, or you can choose to hire a company to do it for you.

Ways to Improve Your Credit On Your Own

Image:

<https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1456406644174-8ddd4cd52a06?ixlib=rb-1.2.1&ixid=MnwxMjA3fDB8MHxwaG90by1wYWdlfHx8fGVufDB8fHx8&auto=format&fit=crop&w=868&q=80>

If you have accurately reported negative items on your credit report, you will not be able to make them magically disappear. Instead, you will have to build credit by paying off debts, making payments on time, and not running your credit accounts too close to their limits.

If you want to clean up your credit yourself, it is free to do but may be very time-consuming. You will need to request copies of your credit reports. You can do that for free [here](#). There are three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax
- TransUnion
- Experian

You must deal with each bureau individually, because not every creditor reports to all three bureaus. This means one bureau may have accurate records for you while another may not.

Once you have obtained copies of your credit reports, you need to go through each one, line by line. Again, take your time and do this very carefully, as this is the only way you will find all of the mistakes or inaccuracies.

If you find inaccuracies, you will need to contact the credit bureau that has the inaccuracy in writing. Make sure to send copies of any records of the specific item in question. The credit agency will launch an investigation and report the results to you.

If they agree with you, they will remove the item. If they do not agree with you, you will have an opportunity to provide a written explanation to be added to the record.

You will want to make sure that you follow the correct process if you do this yourself. Start by checking out the Federal Trade Commission website; they have a 16 page PDF that outlines the proper procedure to use so that you don't make mistakes. You can find that [here](#).

What is a Credit Repair Company?

A credit repair company is a company that goes through this very same process for you. Basically, you pay a fee so that you won't have to go through the time and effort of doing it yourself.

A credit repair company might not be the best answer for someone with only one or two errors in their report. However, if you have more than a couple of errors or you feel unsure of or overwhelmed by the process, a credit repair company like Buff Credit may be a great option for you.

What Do Credit Repair Companies Do?

Credit repair companies will obtain copies of your credit reports for you and flag any items that seem problematic, as well as have you go over the reports. Then they will handle the paperwork and red tape involved with disputing any fraudulent or wrong information.

Many repair companies may also offer your credit or identity theft protection for a fee.

Hiring a Credit Repair Company

If you decide that you want to hire a company to repair your credit, there are some things you can look for to make sure that you are dealing with a valid and reputable company.

How Much Does Credit Repair Cost?

The cost of credit repair varies depending on the company you go with. Some companies have flat rates, and others charge depending on their services. It is important to know that a credit repair company should never charge you upfront.

How Long Does Credit Repair Take?

Credit repair is not a quick process. It will likely take up to the full 30 days for a credit bureau to respond to your disputed information and if you are disputing many charges, this could take a while.

The fact that it is a lengthy and involved process is why it is so important that you keep an eye on your credit reports to catch inaccuracies quickly before they become an issue.

How Can I Verify a Credit Repair Company?

According to experts, the best way to verify a credit repair company is to make sure they are compliant with the [Credit Repair Organizations Act](#). This act “bars companies offering credit repair services from demanding advance payment, requires that credit repair contracts be in writing, and gives consumers certain contract cancellation rights.”

A reputable and trustworthy company will make sure you know your rights.

Consider it a red flag if a credit repair company:

- Asks for upfront payment
- Doesn't make you aware that you can cancel within three days

- Promises to get rid of all of your bad credit
- Doesn't put all of their policies in writing

Can a Credit Repair Company Really Help?

Yes, a credit repair company can help you repair your credit. This is especially true for anyone who has had an issue with identity theft, been through a divorce, had a problem with a change of their name, or just hasn't really kept up on their credit.

For many people, these types of matters are just frustrating and draining. If you want to take care of your credit and just don't have the time or patience for it, you should absolutely hire a credit repair company to help.

If you need the help of a great credit repair company, visit [BuffCredit.com](https://buffcredit.com) and see what they can do for you!