



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR Credit Score

THE CREDIT SCORE RECIPE

Five factors combine to determine your credit score. How much of each ingredient goes into calculating that magical 3-digit number?



- 1 **35%** PAYMENT HISTORY
- 2 **30%** CREDIT USE & DEBT LEVEL
- 3 **15%** LENGTH OF CREDIT HISTORY
- 4 **10%** CREDIT MIX
- 5 **10%** NEW CREDIT

WHAT DETERMINES YOUR Credit Score?

NOW THAT YOU'VE BRUSHED UP ON
WHAT GOES INTO CALCULATING YOUR
CREDIT SCORE, IT'S TIME TO START
GIVING YOURS A RAISE.



6 SIMPLE WAYS TO BOOST YOUR CREDIT SCORE

1

KNOW YOUR FICO® SCORE

FICO is a type of credit score, and the one most commonly used by lenders. You'll see this score on your credit report: Get yours free at annualcreditreport.com.

2

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

The sweet spot for credit card balances is **30% or less of your available limit**. If you can get this number down to 10%, your credit score should rise.

3

CORRECT MISTAKES

Notice incorrect info on your credit report?

Send a letter to both the creditor and the reporting agencies (TransUnion, Equifax and Experian) disputing the error. Once it's fixed, you're golden.

4

RAISE THE ROOF

Ask your credit card company to raise your limit. Just make sure that your new boundaries don't encourage you to rack up more debt!

5

TAKE A BREAK

Your FICO score goes down when a potential lender runs your credit (this is called a "hard pull"). Don't apply for a dozen cards at once, and take breaks after getting new credit.

6

PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME

Obvious, right? But we get it — life happens. If you're having trouble paying by a certain day, check with your creditor or landlord to see if they can shift your payment date.

