

FOUR TRICKS TO BOOST YOUR CREDIT SCORE QUICKLY



Your credit score is an important element when it comes to financial stability, but there is no instant solution that can improve it overnight. The time it will take to strengthen your credit score will depend on the reason your score needs help in the first. For example, if you have a low score due to bankruptcy, it can affect your credit for up to seven years. Improving it would require a long-term plan of consistently paying bills on time and other responsible credit practices. However, if your score is low due to a lack of credit history or you are just starting to build your credit, your score can be improved within months. If there's room for improvement, here are four tips that can give your credit score a boost:



FIX ERRORS ON YOUR CREDIT REPORTS

According to the Federal Trade Commission, one in four credit reports contains small errors that can affect your score. Errors may include false information attributed to you due to identity theft, a simple mix up, accounts that don't belong to you and more. If the mistake has made a negative impact on your score, you can expect it to improve in approximately 60 days after the correction has been made.

PAY OFF CREDIT CARDS EVERY MONTH

You will see your credit score improve when you pay off your debts. However, that doesn't mean you should run out and buy things you don't need. To help improve your credit, charge expenses that you already pay for, like groceries, on your credit cards and pay them off every month, instead of paying with cash.

STAY AWAY FROM YOUR CREDIT LIMITS

Paying down debt will improve your creditworthiness, and help your "credit utilization," which is the amount of debt you have relative to your credit card limits. As your balance gets closer to your limits, your available credit decreases, which is bad for your score. Reducing your credit utilization rate will improve your score.

SET UP AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Your credit score takes a hit with every time you make a late payment, because payment history comprises 35% of your score. If you struggle to remember when money is due, set up automatic payments with your credit cards. It's an easy way to stay punctual and—barring other major marks against your credit—turn your score around in a relatively short amount of time.

Keep in mind that it may take 60 days or more for you to see improvements in your score.

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