

Credit-Building & Repair Checklist



OBTAIN & REVIEW CREDIT REPORTS

Regularly checking your reports helps you spot errors and track progress. Use the free service, annualcreditreport.com.

DISPUTE ERRORS ON YOUR CREDIT REPORTS

Correcting inaccuracies can quickly improve your credit score.

PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME

Consistent on-time payments are crucial, as payment history makes up 35% of your score.

REDUCE OUTSTANDING CARD BALANCES

Lowering your credit utilization ratio positively impacts your score.

AVOID OPENING NEW CREDIT ACCOUNTS

Each new inquiry can temporarily lower your score, so only apply when needed.

KEEP OLD CREDIT ACCOUNTS OPEN

Older accounts help improve the length of your credit history.

DIVERSIFY YOUR CREDIT MIX

Having a mix of credit types can boost your score, but only when managed responsibly.

LIMIT HARD INQUIRIES

Too many hard inquiries in a short period can signal financial distress to lenders.

SET UP AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Automatic payments and setting reminders help ensure you never miss a payment, which can have the biggest negative impact on your score.

NEGOTIATE WITH CREDITORS

Requesting a goodwill adjustment or better payment terms can remove negative marks.

USE SECURED CARDS/CREDIT-BUILDING LOANS

These products help build credit if you're starting from scratch or rebuilding after poor credit performance.

MONITOR YOUR CREDIT REGULARLY

Staying informed allows you to take quick action on any changes or fraud.

ADDRESS PAST DUE ACCOUNTS/COLLECTIONS

Settling or negotiating these debts can improve your credit over time.

BECOME AN AUTHORIZED USER

Being added to someone's well-maintained account can give your score a boost.

MAINTAIN LOW CREDIT UTILIZATION

Keeping your balances low shows responsible credit management.

LEARN ABOUT CREDIT SCORING FACTORS

Understanding what affects your score helps you make informed financial decisions.

AVOID CLOSING UNUSED CREDIT CARDS

Keeping cards open maintains available credit, lowering your utilization ratio.

PLAN MAJOR FINANCIAL MOVES CAREFULLY

Timing is key; make big decisions when your score is stable and improving.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL CREDIT COUNSELING

A counselor can help you develop a strategy to manage debt and improve your score. Get started for free at membersfirstga.com/ccufc.

BE PATIENT AND CONSISTENT

Credit improvements take time, so steady, responsible habits are essential for long-term success.