







Checklist for Improving Your Credit Score

Your credit score determines what loans you qualify for and how competitive the interest rates and terms are for those debts. The following checklist will help you to boost your score fast.

-  **1. Check your credit reports and correct errors.** First, find out why your credit score is lower than you would like. You can do this by ordering a free credit report from Experian, Equifax, or TransUnion.

Reviewing the information on your report will help you identify real issues you need to address as well as possible errors which could be lowering your score. If you do discover errors, file disputes to get them removed.
-  **2. Pay off debts where possible.** If you have debts you can pay off completely, think about doing just that.
-  **3. Reduce your credit utilization.** If you are a reliable customer, you might be able to negotiate a higher credit limit. If your utilization remains the same in terms of dollar amounts, it will drop as a percentage.
-  **4. Ask a family member or friend to help you out.** If you need more of a boost than you can achieve on your own, try and have someone with a higher credit score co-sign on a loan with you, or add you to their card.
-  **5. Make timely payments on your debts.** For debts you cannot pay off in their entirety, try and make the minimum required payment on time each month.
-  **6. Diversify with care.** You may want to add more types of debts to improve diversity in your portfolio, but make sure you do not go overboard with this. Do not take on more debt than you can manage.



It takes time to raise your credit score, but if you stick with these steps, you may be able to achieve it faster than you think!