

The First 30 Days to Better Credit

By Young Financial Services

Welcome

Improving your credit is possible with the right steps and consistency. This guide will walk you through what to do – and what NOT to do – in your first 30 days.

What Makes Up Your Credit Score

- **Payment History (35%)** – On-time payments matter most
- **Credit Utilization (30%)** – Keep balances under 30%
- **Credit Age (15%)** – Older accounts help
- **Credit Mix (10%)** – Cards, loans, etc.
- **New Credit (10%)** – Too many inquiries can hurt

Week 1: Get Organized

- Pull your **free credit reports** from all 3 bureaus
- Make a list of:
 - Collections
 - Late payments
 - Charge-offs
 - Incorrect accounts
- Do NOT apply for new credit

Week 2: Review for Errors

Look for:

- Accounts you don't recognize
- Incorrect balances
- Duplicate accounts
- Wrong payment history
- Old negative accounts past reporting time

Week 3: Take Action

- Start dispute letters (errors only)
- Set up payment reminders
- Reduce credit card balances if possible

Week 4: Build Positive Credit

- Keep utilization low
- Pay bills early
- Avoid closing old accounts

- Stay consistent

Important Truth

Credit repair is **not instant**, but progress happens when steps are followed correctly.

How to Review Your Credit Report Like a Pro

Credit Report Review Checklist

Where to Get Your Reports

- AnnualCreditReport.com
- Experian
- Equifax
- TransUnion

Personal Information Section

- ☐ Name spelled correctly
- ☐ Correct address
- ☐ Correct employer
- ☐ No unfamiliar names or addresses

Account Review Checklist

For EACH account:

- ☐ Is this account yours?
- ☐ Is the balance correct?
- ☐ Are the payment dates accurate?
- ☐ Is the status correct (open/closed)?

Negative Items to Watch

- ☐ Collections
- ☐ Charge-offs
- ☐ Late payments
- ☐ Repossessions
- ☐ Accounts older than 7 years

Notes Section

(Account Name / Issue Found / Action Needed)

Reminder

Not all negative accounts can be removed — only **inaccurate, unverifiable, or outdated** items.

Credit Dispute Letter Templates

Easy Fill-In Templates

Template 1: Account Not Mine

I am disputing the following account because it does not belong to me. Please investigate and remove if unverifiable.

Account Name:

Account Number:

Reason for Dispute:

Template 2: Incorrect Balance

The balance reported on this account is inaccurate. Please provide verification or correct the information.

Template 3: Incorrect Late Payment

This account reflects a late payment that is inaccurate. I am requesting verification or correction.

Template 4: Duplicate Account

This account appears more than once on my credit report and should be removed.

Important Notes

- Dispute **errors only**
- One dispute per letter is best
- Keep copies of everything

Know Your Numbers

Debt-to-Income Worksheet

Monthly Income

- Primary Income: _____
- Other Income: _____
- Total Monthly Income:** _____

Monthly Debts

- ☐ Rent/Mortgage
- ☐ Car Payment
- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Loans
- ☐ Collections Payment Plans

Total Monthly Debt: _____

Debt-to-Income Formula

DTI = Total Monthly Debt ÷ Monthly Income

What Lenders Prefer

- Under 36% = Excellent
- 37–43% = Acceptable
- 44%+ = Needs Improvement

7 Ways to Boost Your Credit Without Paying a Company

Pay balances before statement date

Keep utilization under 30%

Don't close old accounts

Become an authorized user

Dispute errors only

Avoid new inquiries

Pay on time — every time

Truth Check

No trick replaces consistency and patience.

Credit Repair Myths vs Facts

Myth: Paying collections always improves credit

Fact: It depends on the scoring model

Myth: Closing accounts helps

Fact: It often hurts your score

Myth: Credit repair is illegal

Fact: Consumers have legal rights under the FCRA

Myth: Checking credit hurts your score

Fact: Soft inquiries do NOT affect your score

Disclaimer

This material is for educational purposes only. Young Financial Services does not guarantee specific credit outcomes. Consumers should only dispute information they believe to be inaccurate, outdated, or unverifiable.

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