

*Boost Your*  
**CREDIT SCORE**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



- IT'S A -  
**MONEY  
THING®**

*Getting*  
**STARTED**

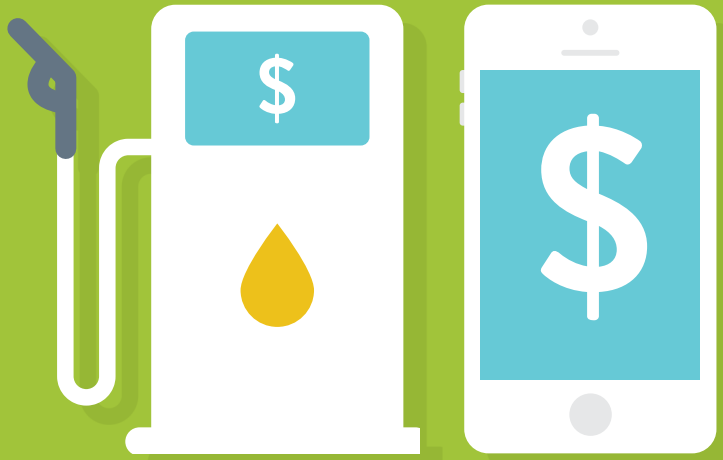
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**Keep things simple.**

*Start building a manageable payment history.*

*Consistency is key.*

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Open one credit card  
and use it for small,  
regular payments.

Pay your bills on time.  
(It's kind of a big deal.)



Email alerts, reminder apps and even automatic bill pay can help you stay on top of your payments.



*Building your*  
**CREDIT**

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**Be aware of your borrowing behavior.**

*Understand the relationship between your financial activity and your credit score.*

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Try not to carry a balance.  
Your credit card shouldn't be  
treated as extra income.

Keep your credit utilization low.  
This means using only 10%  
of your available credit.



# How to calculate your credit utilization:



\$150 / \$1,000 limit



\$430 / \$500 limit

*Find the amount charged to your credit card(s) each month as well as the credit limit of each card.*

# How to calculate your credit utilization:



$$\begin{array}{r} \$ 150 / \$ 1,000 \text{ limit} \\ + \$ 430 / \$ 500 \text{ limit} \\ \hline \$ 580 / \$ 1,500 \text{ limit} \end{array}$$

*Add them together to see your total credit card spending vs. your total credit limit.*

# How to calculate your credit utilization:



*This represents your utilization. In this case, it's 580/1,500 or **39%**.*

**\$580 / \$1,500 limit**



Remember, **10% credit utilization** is where you want to be in order to boost your credit score.

**10%**



Space out new account openings and closings to minimize the effect on your credit score.



Mix it up.  
Having a variety of  
credit can raise your  
credit score.





*Monitoring*  
**YOUR CREDIT**

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## **Read your credit report.**

*Your credit report is a valuable tool when it comes to understanding your credit score.*

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Request your free credit report from each of the major credit bureaus.

When you request your own credit report, it does not affect your credit score, so don't be shy!



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Sources: Federal Trade Commission, Experian, TransUnion, LearnVest  
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