



HOW TO INCREASE YOUR CREDIT SCORE FOR FREE

Step by step instructions in disputing your credit report:

Step 1: Obtain copies of current credit reports

Credit bureaus require you to have a recent report (less than 90 days old) before they will consider your dispute. The good news is that you only need to purchase the first report because after dispute an item and it's corrected, the credit bureau is required by law to send you a brand new credit report free.

Now, the new FACTA allows you to order ONE FREE REPORT every 12 months per credit bureau. If you have not ordered one in the last 12 months, go to www.annualcreditreport.com. The best thing is about these reports, is that they DO NOT count as an inquiry and hurt your score.

Step 2: Review Personal Information

Once you have a current credit report, review the following personal information for any inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, misleading, or outdated information.

- Names and Aliases (full names, spelling, Jr., Sr., III, maiden, married, nicknames, etc.)
- Addresses (check zip codes)
- Social Security Number(s)
- Date(s) of Birth
- State ID Number(s) (drivers license, student IDs, government IDs etc.)
- Spouse Information (maiden names, previous marriage names, nicknames etc.)
- Employers (names, dates, locations, type of termination etc.)

Items that do not belong to you appear on your credit reports more often than you realize. And, once there, it tends to stick because it somehow matches up with other incorrect personally identifying information elsewhere in the report.

Always dispute mistakes in your personal information first, because this data is used to help verify all other items on your credit report. By disputing erroneous personal information first, other negative items will no longer match your personal information thus, your case to have them removed becomes that much stronger.

Step 3: Rank Order Questionable Items

After you've disputed and had corrected any personal information, you can then begin the next step of carefully reviewing the rest of the items and note any inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, misleading, or outdated information then, rank order (see Rank Order Below) each item according to its relevant importance.

It does not matter whether the information is negative, neutral, or even positive; if it is in anyway erroneous, have it removed.

Rank questionable items according to their significance using the following ordered list.

1. Bankruptcy (included or excluded items, chapter filed, filing date and so forth)
2. Consumer credit counseling (date entered counseled, progress, etc.)
3. Foreclosure (attempts, completed actions, dates, amounts, etc.)
4. Consumer credit counseling loans (debt consolidation loans, amounts, dates, what other debts were included, etc.)
5. Default (dates, amounts, etc.)
6. Repossession, (voluntary or involuntary, amount owed, dates etc.)
7. Court judgments (date, amount, type, reason etc.)
8. Collections (be sure the date shows the delinquent date NOT the date of collection actions)
9. Past due payments (number past due, amount, length of time, and if settled)
10. Late payments (correct dates are critical here, they determine how long the info stays in your reports)
11. Credit rejections (be sure it's you, and why)
12. Credit inquiries (be sure these pertain to you - watch for fraud)

Be sure to perform this step on all three national credit reports because the same questionable information may be on one, two or all three credit reports.

Step 4: Initial Dispute to Correct Information- Use included form (Change all bold items to correct information)

Mail a dispute letter to each Credit Reporting Agency that has erroneous information.

Understanding the Credit Reporting Agency's Legal Obligations

- They must investigate your dispute!
- They must inform you of the results of the investigation!
- If they change any disputed information they must provide an updated copy of your report

Once the credit reporting agency receives your dispute letter, they are obligated to investigate it and this **obligation is not contingent upon you having been denied credit.**

Usually between 10 and 30 days they'll send a letter informing you that they are investigating your dispute. Then, within another 10 to 30 days, you should receive a letter informing you of the results of their investigation.

OTHER TIPS AND TRICKS TO GET AN INCREASE OF YOUR SCORE

- 1) If you don't have any current revolving trade lines (credit cards), apply to get a SECURED credit card online. Secured means that you deposit funds with the company and they will give you a credit card with the limit of your deposit. This will in turn start reporting good payment habits on your credit report, as POSITIVE trade lines are crucial in obtaining higher scores.
- 2) If you DO have revolving debts/ credit cards. Try and pay down the balances as best you can. Having maxed out your credit cards will drop your score. The lower the outstanding balance vs. your available credit, the better. Get your ratio down below 75%, 50% or 25% and see your scores jump up.
- 3) Ask a friend/family member to add you as a "Authorized User" for the credit account. You will then obtain the credit history, balance as reported to the person who has the credit line.

ANY QUESTIONS OR HELP NEEDED, CALL OR EMAIL ME ANYTIME. I AM HERE TO HELP!

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