



## 6 Ways to Help Rebuild Credit

An important first step in rebuilding your credit is having a plan. And while every person's situation is different, there are some helpful strategies to consider.

Here are seven tips that could help you rebuild your credit.

### 1. Review Your Credit Report

Your credit score is affected by a number of factors. So, knowing what's on your credit report will help you figure out exactly where you stand. Your credit score can give you a general sense of your creditworthiness. But your credit report can offer much more detail.

A good first step is [requesting a free annual credit report](#) from each of the three major credit bureaus: Equifax®, Experian® and TransUnion®. If there are errors on your report, they could negatively affect your credit score. But you have the right to [dispute errors or incomplete information](#) on your report.

### 2. Pay Your Bills on Time

Paying all your bills on time may be easier said than done. But your [payment history](#) is a main driver of your credit score. And negative information in your payment history—like missed or [late credit card payments](#)—could affect your credit score for years. Missing payments could have other consequences too, like [late payment fees](#).

But older negative information may count less than more recent information. So the longer you pay your bills on time, the better it is for your payment history. And the better it could be for your credit score.

You might consider setting up a [budget](#), [automatic payments](#) or reminder alerts to help you keep up with your bills. And making at least the [minimum payment](#) on credit accounts—like your credit card—will keep your accounts current and in good standing. But keep in mind that paying only the minimum could have other negative effects on your credit score.





### 3. Catch Up on Overdue Bills

If you have bills that weren't paid on time and are past due, you'll want to get caught up. And if you've fallen behind on your credit card payments, there are several steps you can take to [get caught up again](#).

You could also consider contacting your lenders if you're struggling to keep up with your bills. They might be able to help you with a payment plan

### 4. Consider a Secured Credit Card

As you're working your way to better credit, a [secured credit card](#) may be helpful. You can make purchases with it, just like a traditional credit card. But it's considered "secured" because it requires you to put money down as a security deposit to open the account.

When you have a secured card, some credit card companies report your status to the credit bureaus. So, if you're paying at least your minimum payment on time and using your card responsibly, it could help you improve your credit.

### 5. Keep Some of Your Credit Available

How much of your available credit you use is also called credit utilization. This is important, since keeping your credit utilization below about 30% can show you're managing your credit responsibly and not overspending.

### 6. Stay on Top of Your Progress

As you work on building up your credit score, consider getting monitoring your behavior and not only your score. "One is a directly result of the other"

## How Long Does It Take to Rebuild Credit?





Rebuilding credit can take time. And just [how long it takes to rebuild credit](#) depends on your circumstances. Things like your current score, factors affecting it and more all play a part in how long it takes to rebuild credit.

The good news is most things won't impact your score forever. And the effects of negative factors may lessen over time. Being patient and forming good habits can eventually pay off in the long run!

## Credit Cards and Rebuilding Credit

Even if you're just starting out, it may be worth researching credit cards. With responsible use, you could use a credit card to help rebuild your credit.

Remember, building better credit takes a little time. But it's possible with responsible financial behavior. And it's never too late to get started.

