

# Building Your Credit History

Did you know you're making history? Every time you pay a bill on time - or don't pay it on time - you're building your credit history. How can you achieve or maintain a good credit history? Here are a few suggestions:

## **Tip #1**

Create a budget so you know exactly where all of your money is going. Keep daily records of everything you spend for a month and decide where you can cut.

## **Tip #2**

Start a savings account and commit to funding it regularly. One reason people run into credit problems is that they don't have cash on hand for everyday purchases.

## **Tip #3**

Consider transferring the balances from multiple credit cards to one new, low-interest credit card.

## **Tip #4**

If you own a home, consider taking out a home equity loan to pay off the balances on your credit cards. The interest usually is tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor regarding interest deductions.

## **Tip #5**

Balance your checkbook regularly to prevent checks from bouncing. Too many bounced checks can have a negative impact on your credit report. You can help prevent overdrafts with U.S. Bank Overdraft Protection.

## **Tip #6**

To avoid late fees from creditors, make it a point to pay your bills on time. U.S. Bank Internet Bill Pay ensures your bills are paid on time, every month — automatically.



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