

Your Credit History: The Key to Great Overall Credit

Courtesy of *CreditDiagnosis.com*

The biggest key to getting (and maintaining) great credit is knowing your credit history.

Your credit history is always important — especially if you plan on borrowing money to purchase a home or other property, or want future employers to consider hiring you.

That's why when banks, credit card companies and mortgage holders consider letting you borrow large sums of money, they check your credit history to see how responsible you've been with your overall credit.

Think of it this way: Just as you wouldn't buy a car before seeing what it looks like, creditors won't lend you money until they're convinced you can pay the loan back.

Building solid credit starts with common sense. And the keys to great credit follow that logic:

- **Establish checking and savings accounts.** Money lenders are mostly concerned with results; they just want to see those on-time payments. But they're more likely to lend you money when they have confidence in your track record.
- **Pay your bills on time.** The easiest way to keep a solid credit history is to avoid missing payments. You can do this by sticking to a monthly budget; a pattern of on-time payment shows money lenders you're worth the risk.
- **Monitor your credit, and fix credit errors.** Fact: Many credit histories contain errors — everything from out-of-date addresses to incorrect account information. Make sure you read through your record and dispute any mistakes.

Your credit history is compiled by a credit bureau or consumer reporting agency (CRA). If you do find errors, you should contact each of the three credit bureaus. Currently, there are three major credit bureaus in the United States — TransUnion, Equifax and Experian:

1. **TransUnion**

Website: www.transunion.com

(contact page: <http://www.transunion.com/corporate/aboutUs/contactUs.page>)

Phone: 800-888-4213

Address: Customer Disclosure Center
TransUnion Consumer Relations
PO Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022

2. **Experian**

Website: www.experian.com

(contact page: http://www.experian.com/customer_service/mail.html)

Phone: 888-397-3742

Address: National Consumer Assistance Center (NCAC)

PO Box 9556
Allen TX 75013

3. Equifax

Website: www.equifax.com
(contact page: http://www.equifax.com/contact_us/en_us)
Phone: 800-685-1111
Address: PO Box 740256
Atlanta, GA 30374

Try to keep this contact information in an easy-to-find place. If and when you need to reach the credit bureaus, you'll have a quick reference sheet standing by.

Credit Diagnosis provides you with the tools you need to access and monitor your financial/credit information through the program's credit reporting and monitoring benefits. *Credit Diagnosis* and its benefit providers are not credit repair service providers and do not receive fees for such services, nor are they credit clinics, credit repair or credit services organizations or businesses, as defined by federal and state law.

The articles and information available on this site are for educational and reference purposes only. They do not constitute, and should not be construed as, legal or financial advice. Any legal or financial principles discussed here are for general information purposes only and may differ substantially in individual situations and/or in different states or countries. For specific legal or financial advice, please consult a licensed attorney or a financial professional. *Credit Diagnosis* does not control or guarantee the accuracy of any information provided through external links from the articles on this website to any other website, nor does the *Credit Diagnosis* privacy policy apply to any personal information that may be collected via the external links.

Credit services provided by TransUnion Interactive, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. Copyright © 2008 *Credit Diagnosis*.