Ascendus®

BUSINESS RESOURCE · CREDIT MANAGEMENT

Building credit

Three habits shape most of your credit score, and you can start on all three this month.

Qualifying for the loan you need can take more than one try. Credit is built in the months before you need it, through a handful of habits that move the needle more than people expect, whether you are waiting to reapply or just starting to understand how a lender reads your file.

> *Small moves now. Bigger access later.*

A credit score can feel like one number standing in front of a much bigger decision. In practice, it is built from a few specific habits, and three of them matter more than the rest.

3 things that move the needle

01

Pay on time, every time

Payment history is the single largest factor in your score, roughly 35 percent of it. One late payment can matter more than almost anything else on the list.

02

Keep your utilization low

How much of your available credit you use accounts for about 30 percent of your score. Using less of what is available, even on accounts you pay off in full, signals strength to a lender.

03

Leave old accounts open

The length of your credit history makes up roughly 15 percent of your score. An old account in good standing keeps that history working for you.

How it adds up

Payment history	Utilization	Length of history
~35%	~30%	~15%

Together, payment history and utilization make up nearly two-thirds of a typical credit score. They are also the two most within your direct control, starting this month. It takes consistency over a few specific things, tracked over time.

YOUR ACTION STEP **Start this month**

Build your credit action plan

If you are not sure where your credit stands or what to work on first, our Get Ready program pairs you with a loan consultant to build a credit action plan step by step.

TRUSTED SOURCES

- TD Bank, Learning Center, Building and managing credit
- Chase, Business Resource Center, Business Resource Center

Keep building

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