



Improving your Credit

The most important aspect for you to know is to keep personal and business accounts/credit completely separate.

Personal

- Keep track of your credit/credit card statements
- Pay the highest balances first
- Try to achieve and maintain a 30% balance
- Don't apply for many credit cards or loans within a short time frame, this will lower your score
- Don't cancel inactive credit cards, allowing them to cancel will boost your score
- Apply for department store credit cards, but pay them off on time
- Pay more than the bare minimum each month
- Get a co-signer with good credit
- Sign up for a free credit report with www.annualcreditreport.com and monitor your credit for mistakes or potential fraud

Business

- Make sure your business name is consistent, not using Aka's, and you follow state naming policies
- Incorporate your business and get an Employee Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS
- Get a business phone line with a 411/yellow pages listing
- Open a business banking account at a local small community bank
- Take your phone bill and business bank account info to your local Staples and open an account
- Buy some office supplies on the account, charge it, and pay it off within thirty days
- Monitor your credit being watchful of the negative
- Don't close bad or inactive accounts
- Keep your credit balance within 20-30% of your limit
- Make sure your vendors are reporting your payments