



What affects your credit score?

Here are some helpful do's and don'ts for positively affecting your credit score:



Spread out your credit applications

Ideally, aim for no more than one hard credit check every six months.



Keep on top of your payments

Missed payments can bring down your score and affect your credit history.



Aim to keep your spending low, but the amount of credit you could borrow high

Lenders like to see a low credit utilisation (i.e. spending only a little of your available limit on your credit card). Less than 25% of your credit limit is the sweet spot.



Keep your oldest credit card going!

This shows how long you've been using credit well, so if you're closing any accounts — don't choose the oldest one.



Build up your credit history over a long time

It isn't called a history for nothing. And not having used any credit historically can negatively affect your creditworthiness.

Remember:

Lenders won't use your credit score. But they'll have their own rating system to help them decide to lend to you based on your credit history and other things.

Here are some other ways to make improvements:



Check your address history is correct

Let Experian, Equifax or TransUnion know if something isn't right.



Register to vote

In terms of improving your credit score, it doesn't matter if you actually vote or not. Being registered helps the credit reference agencies to find your current address.



Ask to remove any old financial connections

We mean your exes and old housemates that you had joint accounts with. Unfortunately, if they have a poor credit score, they could be bringing yours down too.



Never miss a payment

This is really important because missed payments, defaults and CCJs (county court judgments) can leave a mark on your credit file for six years (eek). If this has happened, but you had a good reason, you can raise a notice of correction to give an explanation to a bank or lender in the future.



Pay off your debts

We know it's a lot easier said than done — paying off debt can feel like you're scaling a mountain in your slippers. But making a start at paying off debts will help your happiness levels improve with every milestone. That's a positive impact on your mental wellbeing, as well as your credit score.



Only aim for one hard check every six months

'Soft checks' don't leave a mark on your file, but you may see a 'hard check' affect your credit score. It's quite normal to see your score rise and fall. And each time you ask for a new line of credit (i.e. get a new credit card or take out a loan) you'll likely see a dip in your score until the lender starts to see you regularly paying them back.



Get started with Logbox Save

Just choose how much to save every month and Logbox will handle the rest! It's quick and easy to get set up, and you'll be on your way to a better credit score in no time. Read here to learn how it works.

Improvements to your credit score are not guaranteed.