

Do you know what's on your credit report?

You don't know what you don't know. That is why it's imperative to order your credit report each year so you can see what is being reported on your credit report. If you want to avoid paying more for loans, rentals, or insurance you need to make sure your credit report is up to date and has accurate information. It is up to you to make sure your information is reflecting only your information and that the information is reported accurately.

Once you order your report you will then need to see if all the information is accurate. If you find some misinformation it can take awhile to correct but it is well worth the time it takes to make sure you have an up to date and accurate report.

The first step to ordering your report is to go to annualcreditreport.com. You are able to order one free credit report each year to review. You also can order one free from each of the three credit bureaus Transunion, Equifax, and Experian. Review your report for any inaccurate information and especially for identity theft!

Dispute anything that looks to be out of order at www.equifax.com, www.experian.com, and www.transunion.com. You should contact all three bureaus if they all have the wrong information. Once a dispute is filed the credit bureaus have 30 days to respond. They will contact the other party to the account and then once the lender see's the error they will be responsible to correct the information with all three credit bureaus. Once the credit bureau completes its investigation they are required to provide written results and a free copy of the corrected report back to you.

You may also contact the lender who has incorrectly reported your information and ask them to update your information to the credit bureaus too.

The FTC has warned consumers against using firms that claim they can improve a person's credit report for a fee. Such firms can't do anything that you couldn't do yourself. It maybe time consuming but it can be done with a persistent effort!