

Don't Look for a "Quick Fix"

We've all seen these types of ads:

**"Erase Bad Credit
100% Guaranteed!"**

Unfortunately, there is NO way to "erase" bad credit. Most companies who make these claims will charge you a lot of money to do something that you can do yourself. Remember the old saying, "If it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it probably is one." Avoid quick fixes!

Ask for Help

Don't hesitate to contact a reputable financial consulting agency, such as Consumer Credit Counseling Services. These agencies are trained and knowledgeable about credit and can work with you to explore options for repairing your credit history.

Remember that it's easier for you to take action before your credit problems become too large!

Don't Give Up!

It can take time to repair your credit. But be persistent! Taking the time to repair your credit is a wise investment. A good credit history means you'll pay lower interest rates and have more financial resources in the future. Over time, a good credit history literally **saves you thousands of dollars** in lower interest fees.

And wouldn't you rather put that money in your own savings account instead of giving it to creditors?

Don't Despair!

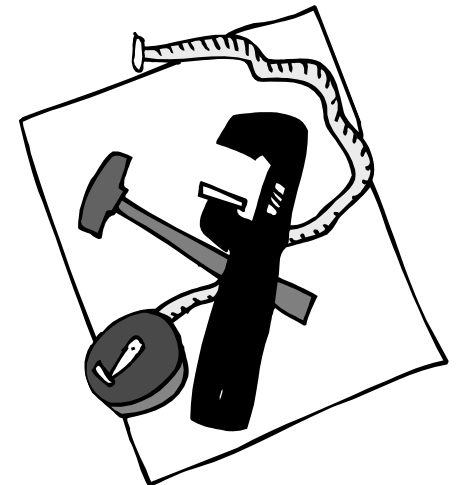
you can

Repair your Credit

Business Name

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@microsoft.com



An “Easy” Trap

These days it's easy to borrow money, accumulate debt, and find yourself in a financially insecure position. Unfortunately, life is full of unanticipated events, such as illness or job loss, that can suddenly make it impossible for you to pay your bills on time.

But there's good news. There ARE ways to get yourself out of debt. You CAN improve your credit history!

Take Control

The single best way to improve your credit score is to get rid of debt. Consider paying off as many bills as you can with savings or by selling an asset and paying debt with the proceeds.

Your home is a good source of money for paying off and consolidating high-interest debt. Refinancing your house can lower your monthly mortgage payment and free up money to pay debt. Most importantly, your house *appreciates* in value. This means that as time passes, rather than increasing your debt as a result of the interest building on credit card balances, you're actually increasing your *assets* because your house is building value!

Most creditors will work with you during hard times so contact them to negotiate payment. But don't make promises you can't keep!

Repairing your credit history is an investment in your financial future. Follow these tips and start down the road to YOUR financial success!

Re-establish Credit

Once you have your finances under control you can begin re-establishing good credit. When re-establishing your credit, avoid applying for offers that have "introductory" or "special offer" interest rates. Often these types of interest rates increase dramatically after the short introductory period, leaving you with much higher rates that can be difficult to pay.

Some of the options for re-establishing credit include:

Secured Credit Cards

A secured credit card is connected to a bank account containing your funds that you cannot access. Generally a secured card will allow you to charge up to the amount in that bank account. To re-establish your willingness and ability to pay debt, make sure you *pay any balance due in full each month*. Also check to make sure the lender reports to the credit agencies so your payment history shows up on your credit report.

Former Creditors

If you had a good payment history with certain creditors in the past, contact them. Briefly explain the circumstances that contributed to your credit problems and how you solved them. These creditors might be willing to re-establish a credit relationship with you.

Secured Loans

A loan is secured if it is “tied to” an asset, such as a house or car. Because lenders are more willing to make a loan when there is an asset to back it, your chance for being approved increases. Don't forget that if you default on a loan that is secured with an asset, the lender can repossess that asset.

Co-signers

If you know someone with good credit, ask if they'd be willing to co-sign a loan application with you. Remember that this person is also responsible for your debt if for some reason you don't pay.