

Making sense of your credit report



There are four main sections of your credit report

1



Personal information:

This section contains your name, address (past and present), Social Security number, date of birth, etc.

3



Public records:

Information from collection agencies appears in this section, including delinquent accounts, bankruptcies, foreclosures, lawsuits, tax liens, judgments, etc. If you have any of these, focus on adding to your positive credit history.

Your credit report

1

2

3

4

2



Credit history:

Here you'll find a list of your credit accounts, both open and closed, as well as payment history information. If you have unused or unnecessary credit cards, you may want to reevaluate the value of those accounts.

4



Credit inquiries:

In this section you'll find a list of everyone who has asked to see your credit report in the last two years.

Credit bureaus:



Experian™

EQUIFAX®

TransUnion®

You can get a free copy of your credit report at: [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com)

Building up your credit report



CREDIT SCORE

When to check your credit:

Check your credit report at least three months in advance of applying for a mortgage—or further in advance if you’ve never seen your credit score before—to potentially correct any problems.



Late or missed payments:

If you have negative marks on your credit report, pay any delinquencies and ask collectors to remove charge-offs and collection accounts. Wait at least six months to apply for a mortgage—the older a delinquency, the better your credit looks.



Thin credit history:

If you don’t have enough credit history, add one or two revolving credit accounts and pay your bill on time every month.

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