

Credit Card Glossary

Annual Percentage Rate (APR) - A yearly rate of interest on charges (variable or fixed).

Grace Period - The interest-free period the credit card company allows between the transaction date and the billing date.

Annual Fee - The charge for the management of your credit card account.

Credit Limit - The maximum amount of charges you can make on your credit card.

Introductory Rate - Usually a lower rate credit card companies offer in order to attract customers that switches to a higher variable or fixed rate.

Cash-Advance Fee - A charge by the credit card company for using the credit card to obtain cash.

Minimum Payment - The minimum amount you can pay to keep the credit card account from going into default.

Variable Interest Rate - Percentage which moves up or down periodically based on changes in other interest rates.

Billing Cycle - The time between billing statements, usually 28-31 days.

Resources

Check out our website at:

www.creditcardresearchprogram.info

Get a copy of your credit report at:

www.experian.com

www.transunion.com

www.equifax.com

www.myfico.com

www.truecredit.com

Find the best card for you at:

www.bankrate.com

www.credit-card-applications-center.com

Learn how to manage your money and use credit cards properly at:

www.mymoneyskills.com

www.credittalk.com



Credit Card Reference Guide

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Did you know?

- * If you miss a payment on one of your credit cards, not only can that credit card company raise your interest rate, so can your other credit card companies.
- * Having a fixed APR does not guarantee that it will always remain at the same rate. In fact, credit card companies can change your terms of agreement with as little as 15 days notice.
- * Cash advances carry a different APR than regular purchases.
- * Just because you get an offer in the mail that says that you are "Pre-Approved", that does not mean that you really are.
- * The interest rate that is quoted in the offer is the interest rate you will have only if you qualify for that rate.
- * If you find a mistake on your credit card bill or your card has been lost or stolen, you have 60 days to report it to the credit card company and you are only liable for \$50 per credit card.

Credit Card Do's and Don'ts

Do...

1. Keep all receipts and check the transactions on each monthly statement for mistakes.
2. Pay any services (i.e. telephone, gas, and electric) that are in your name you pay in full and on time each month.
3. Try to pay more than your minimum payment each month.
4. Shred any papers that have your personal information and credit card number on it before you throw it away (source of identity theft).
5. Sign the back of your credit card as soon as you receive it in the mail.
6. Have a credit card to use in emergencies.
7. Order a copy of your credit report and review it carefully to make sure it is accurate.
8. Create a budget so that you will know what you can and cannot afford.
9. Always add up the total on credit card slips, doing so prevents fraud.
10. Ask for help or advice if you need it.
11. Call your credit card company and notify them if you are going to be late with a payment.



Don't...

1. Give out personal information over the phone to an unsolicited caller. This includes your social security number, address, bank account, credit card numbers, phone numbers, and date of birth.
2. Write your Personal Identification Number (PIN) on your credit card.
3. Sign blank credit card slips.
4. Have more than two major credit cards.
5. Charge more than you can pay off each month.
6. Lend your credit card or debit card to friends.
7. Apply for a credit card just to get the free items such as hats, t-shirts, and CD's that the credit card companies give away.
8. Exceed your credit limit or max out your credit cards.
9. Obtain cash advances using your credit card.
10. Ignore the information that your credit card company sends to you in the mail.
11. Carry all your credit cards with you if you do not need them.