

Maintaining Favorable **CREDIT SCORES**

1. MONITOR YOUR CREDIT.

Order a copy of your free credit report from each of the three major bureaus annually from www.annualcreditreport.com.

2. PAY ALL OF YOUR BILLS ON TIME OR EARLY.

Even a 30-day late notice on a small credit card can have a significant negative impact on your scores.

3. DON'T CO-SIGN LOANS!

Their late payments are your late payments and will negatively impact YOUR credit scores!

4. DON'T CLOSE OLD REVOLVING ACCOUNTS NO LONGER IN USE.

It helps your scoring when accounts are open with zero balances.

5. DON'T OPEN NEW ACCOUNTS UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

Inquiries may or may not affect your score depending on the rest of your credit history.

6. REPORT FRAUD IMMEDIATELY.

If you find yourself the victim of fraud, immediately contact the credit bureaus, your credit card companies, banks and the FTC at www.ftc.gov.

7. DO NOT EXTEND OR OPEN NEW CREDIT ACCOUNTS

Don't open new accounts while in the mortgage application process to purchase or refinance a home.



3225 N Central Ave Ste 120, Phoenix, AZ 85012

602-522-9494
BookspanBaker.com

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