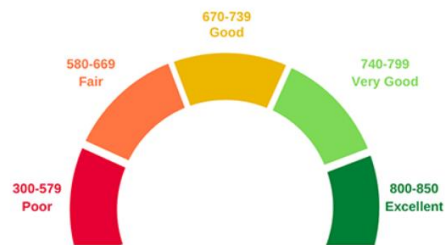


# How to Build New or Better Credit Handout

If someone has low credit (less than 700)

**Good credit score is 300-750**



## Top 3 Credit Bureaus Who Monitor Credit

Equifax

Experian

TransUnion

Equifax [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com) or call 1-866-349-5191

Experian [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com) or call 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com) or call 1-800-916-8800

# How To Build Good Credit

1. Request your free credit reports
2. Review your credit reports
3. File a Credit Report Dispute for mistakes
4. Pay your loans on time, every time
5. Don't get close to your credit limit
6. A long credit history will help your score
7. Only apply for credit that you need

## 1. Request your free credit reports (free most of the time)

To get your **free annual credit report**, you'll need to contact each of the credit reporting agencies separately and request it:

Equifax     [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com) or call 1-866-349-5191

Experian     [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com) or call 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com) or call 1-800-916-8800

## 2. Review your credit reports

Credit card accounts and balances

Details on payments made on time

Debt payment history

Balances due of accounts open currently

Number of closed accounts

Personally identifiable information is identical across all reports — complete name, address, SSN, date of birth, etc.

### **3. File a Credit Report Dispute for mistakes**

Contact your credit bureaus to correct information

### **4. Pay your loans on time, every time**

Set up automatic payments, or set up electronic reminders. For missed payments, get current and stay current

### **5. Don't get close to your credit limit**

Try to keep your balances low compared to your total credit limit

### **6. A long credit history will help your score**

Credit scores are based on your spending habits over time

### **7. Only apply for credit that you need**

Credit scoring looks at how many cards, loans and debts you have. Limit what you borrow and spend