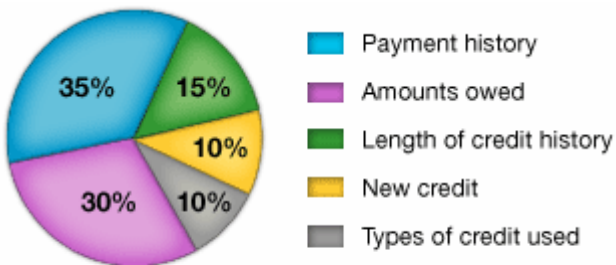


Ever wonder what all the fuss is about credit scores these days? Are they as important as everyone says? What impact does it have on buying a house? How do I find a reliable source of information regarding my credit? How can I best raise my credit score?

These are just some of the questions I receive every day as a mortgage broker, from people who are looking for information about their credit and information about buying a house. The bottom line is yes, they are important, but understanding the report and knowing how to improve the score, may be just as important.

Credit is an important factor when buying a house or a car, but it is not the only factor, or even the most important one. You may still be able to qualify for a loan with mediocre credit. It never hurts to inquire, and you might just be surprised, especially with the variety of loan programs available today.



Source: myFICO.com

So what if you know you don't have the best credit? Investigate your options! Additionally, there may be ways to improve your credit. There are short and long term solutions, but it is best to have someone sit down with you and explain your full credit report – not just a number pulled off the internet. For instance, did you know that only 35% of your credit score is calculated by how well you pay your bills? There are many factors that contribute, but without

the right information, it is difficult to adjust.

Maybe you've heard that maintaining a small balance on your credit cards is good for your credit, or maybe you've even heard that not having credit cards or loans reflects positively on your credit. These are common misconceptions that can lead people down dangerous paths.

Here are a couple of quick fixes to improve your credit in a short time:

1. Pay your credit cards on time, even if the minimum balance is all you can afford that month
2. If you have a mortgage, make sure that is a top priority to pay
3. Don't let any credit card go past 30 days past due
4. Keep under 30% of your credit limit
5. Businesses and creditors appreciate communication – let them know your situation and they may be willing to work with you

Like with most things in life, the more informed you are about your credit, the more secure you will be. I offer a free credit check and analysis for those looking to buy a home, and I can provide the advice you need to get your credit back on track, and help you make the most of it. Call me today to set up an appointment!

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