TXCPA
Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

HOW TO USE CREDIT CARDS WISELY

APPROVED

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1
BE AWARE OF TEASER RATES

Credit card companies may offer low introductory interest rates to attract new customers, but these rates usually last only a few months before jumping as high as 20%. Be sure to compare offers from multiple issuers before choosing a card.

2
STICK WITH ONE CARD

It's tempting to get a store credit card for discounts, but applying for many cards can hurt your credit. Using one card to pay off another is risky and should be avoided.

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3
PAY IN FULL EVERY MONTH

Get in the habit of paying the balance in full each month, which means don't charge more than you can pay off at the end of the month.

4
AVOID CASH ADVANCES

Be aware that the interest rate on cash advances can be much higher than the rates charged on purchases.

5
PAY ON TIME

To avoid late fees and potential interest rate hikes, mail your credit card payment several days before the due date to allow for mailing time. Consider paying online if it's hard to keep up with due dates.

6
DON'T EXCEED CREDIT LIMIT

This helps avoid penalties and ensures that you will have credit available in the event of a true emergency.

7
REVIEW STATEMENTS CAREFULLY

Immediately inform the credit card company of any discrepancies or errors on your monthly statement.

8
REPORT LOST OR STOLEN CARD IMMEDIATELY

Keep a copy of your credit card account number and the financial institution's name and customer service phone number in case your card is lost or stolen.

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