

Fall Credit Check Up 2022

Fall and the final quarter of the year is a great time to take account of your credit. Checking on your personal credit report and credit scores is always important but especially if you are preparing for a mortgage loan.

Below are some good resources to put you in the best position prior to speaking with your loan officer –

- **Free Credit Reports:** Consumers can review their personal credit reports weekly for *free* through December 31st 2023 at: www.annualcreditreport.com
- **Credit Reporting Errors:** Learn how to file a dispute here: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/disputing-errors-your-credit-reports>
- **Medical Collections:** Beginning July 1, 2022 –
 - all *paid* medical collections will be deleted from credit bureau files.
 - medical collections cannot be reported on a consumer's credit file for 12 months. And in early 2023 *all* medical collections under \$500 will be omitted from credit reporting.
 - <https://newsroom.transunion.com/equifax-experian-and-transunion-support-us-consumers-with-changes-to-medical-collection-debt-reporting/>
- **Avoid Trigger Lead Calls:** Consumers can opt-out by visiting these sites:
 - <https://www.optoutprescreen.com/> (for mail)
 - www.donotcall.gov (for phone)
- **Credit File Security:** To place a fraud alert or add or remove a freeze or lock visit these sites. Remember to remove a freeze or lock before pulling credit.
 - Equifax: <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>
 - Experian: <https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>
 - Transunion: <https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

Additional information from the Federal Trade Commission:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0497-credit-freeze-faqs>

- **Learn about FICO® Scores:** www.myfico.com or www.ficoscore.com/education.
- **Credit Score Quiz:** <http://www.creditscorequiz.org/>