

# YOUR CREDIT MATTERS

Financing a new Cadillac is a momentous occasion. Before finalizing your decision, it's beneficial to be well-informed about your credit history so that you know what to expect when applying for auto financing or a vehicle lease.

# WHAT IS A CREDIT SCORE?

Three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) collect information about your borrowing and payment habits. Your credit history is compiled, and each bureau creates a score to help lenders determine your credit risk. Simply put, a good score helps you qualify for financing and lowers your interest rate.

### REVIEW YOUR CREDIT HISTORY.

Before you shop, request a free copy of your credit report so you can review your credit history and dispute any potential errors. The report outlines all open accounts, how much you have borrowed and paid, and if you have a history of late payments. Your credit score will not show up on your free report, but you can usually request that information for an extra fee.



## TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR CREDIT

## ENSURE YOUR CREDIT REPORT IS ACCURATE.

It is recommended to request one free credit report annually from each of the three credit bureaus. This will help you stay on top of any changes and ensure accuracy in your report. Report any errors immediately because they may impact your score.

### MANAGE YOUR DEBT.

Make paying off debt a priority. The portion of your credit limits you're using at any given time is called "credit utilization," which is the second biggest factor affecting your credit score. It is recommended to keep your utilization under 30%. Your credit report can help you identify your accounts, amounts owed and interest rates that will assist you in mindfully managing your debt.





### PAY YOUR BILLS ON TIME.

The biggest factor affecting your credit score is on-time debt payments. Even one missed payment can impact your credit report and score, so get (and stay) current on your bills. You can often ask your creditor to move the due date to a different time of the month, if necessary.

#### BUILD CREDIT RESPONSIBLY.

Credit history and behavior form the basis of your credit score, including the length of credit history, amount of unpaid debt, percent of credit available and new applications for credit. Carefully consider new credit accounts and only open them as needed, as new credit accounts can impact your credit score.



## MONITOR YOUR CREDIT



# REQUEST A FREE COPY OF YOUR REPORT ANNUALLY

Request one free credit report annually from each of the three credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

call 1-877-322-8228 visit annualcreditreport.com

# PURCHASE A COPY OF YOUR REPORT AT ANY TIME.

You can purchase a copy of your credit report and your credit score from one of the three main credit reporting agencies:

Equifax Credit Information Services P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374 1-800-685-1111 equifax.com

Experian
P.O. Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
experian.com

TransUnion Corporation P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022 1-800-916-8800 transunion.com

