



Make Yourself Mortgage Ready

If you're in the market for a mortgage, there are a few things you can do to make yourself more attractive to mortgage lenders. Whether you're in the market for your first home, upgrading to your dream home, or even refinancing your current home, it pays to prepare before you apply for your loan.

1. Do not apply for any new credit including credit cards or direct loans such as cars, boats, etc. These transactions lead to inquiries on your credit report and negatively impact your credit score.
2. Bring any delinquent accounts current. Be sure that the bank updates your credit report to reflect the current balance and status.
3. Close any credit card or other accounts that you are not currently using. Ask the bank or credit card company to mark them "closed by customer."
4. Do not apply for any 30, 60 or 90 day same-as-cash accounts. These create inquiries and post finance company accounts on your credit file, which can cause negative points on your credit rating.
5. If possible, pay down your credit card balances to zero.
6. Pay off any hospital debt that may be recovered by insurance and have the insurance company reimburse you directly, if possible. This will keep a collection account from appearing on your file.
7. If you have had Public Record Items such as judgements, suits, tax liens and the like, make sure you pay them and that they are marked "released" at the court where they were filed.

