

Practice Safe Credit

Many of us give in to our buying desires, and not necessarily just during the holidays. When we do, we usually spend more than we can afford. Maybe it is a child's birthday, maybe it is your wedding anniversary, maybe it's a result of boredom, depression, or for no apparent reason at all. Credit cards are easy to come by these days - just look in your mailbox. To avoid credit card blues, play it safe. Here are some steps to gain control of your spending.



- \$ Use just one credit card. Find one with no fee and a low interest rate. Cut the rest of your cards up.
- \$ Many credit card companies offer low introductory rates - some as low as 4.9%. Watch out though, after six months, that interest rate can really jump. Pay attention and switch card companies as your six month mark nears.
- \$ Keep a diary of your purchases. Review it at the end of each week.
- \$ Avoid using credit cards for everyday purchases like groceries.
- \$ If you cannot pay off your card at the end of each month, try to pay more than the minimum due.
- \$ Keep credit cards in a safe deposit box.
- \$ Keep a list of your account number and the customer service numbers to notify in case of theft.
- \$ If your spending continues out of control, remember, your Employee Assistance Program can help.