

CRUSH YOUR HOLIDAY DEBT IN 5 STEPS

The holiday season is officially over. The decorations have come down and the presents have been unwrapped, but now the post-holiday blues have likely set in. This may include some anxiety about dealing with holiday debt. You're not alone. In fact, according to the 2019 Experian Consumer Credit Review, Americans carry \$6,194 in credit card debt on average. And around the holiday season, 36% of Americans reported taking on more debt, averaging \$1,249.

If you're over your head with bills to pay, follow these 5 steps to crush your holiday debt once and for all.

1 Determine how much you owe.

Before you can begin effectively paying off your holiday debt, it's important to determine exactly how much you owe. Start by making a list of all the accounts and credit cards you used to make holiday purchases.

For each card or account, make a note of how much you owe, the minimum payment required, the interest rate, and the payment date. Be as explicit as possible in your accounting so you don't miss a payment.

If you saved your holiday receipts, cross reference your accounts with your receipts to make sure you're not missing anything, and to make sure you weren't charged incorrectly for any purchases.

2 Create or update your budget.

Once you have a clear idea of exactly how much holiday debt you owe, it's time to either create a new budget or update your current budget. A budget shows you where your money is going so you can create a personalized spending plan. We recommend maintaining your budget using an app on your smartphone so it will be within easy reach to keep you on track. This is



an excellent way to see all of your monthly expenses, including your holiday debts. By doing this, you will most likely find that expenditures can be eliminated or cut back on. You will also get a clear picture of what amount you can afford to pay back each month.

And although it may be too late this holiday season, it's never too late to get a head start on next year by planning out your holiday budget in advance.

Now that you have a clear idea of what you owe and what pay-back amount you can manage, it's time to choose your payoff method.

3 Choose your payoff method.

How much you can afford to pay back each month will likely help you determine what payoff method you choose. There are two main payoff methods, the snowball method, and the avalanche method.

The snowball method focuses on paying down your smallest debt balance before moving on to larger ones. While focusing on your smallest debt first, you'll still be making the minimum payments on all other debts. Once that small debt is paid in full, take the dollar amount



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used for that debt and roll it into the next smallest debt. Continue until all debt is paid off. This method can give you quick rewards and teach you discipline.

The avalanche method focuses on paying the loan with the highest interest rate first. You'll still be making the minimum payments on smaller interest loan debts, but you'll focus on paying off the highest interest rate debt first. Once your highest interest rate debt is paid off, take the dollar amount used for that debt and roll it into the next highest interest rate debt. This method will ultimately result in paying less interest over time, but it requires discipline.

4 Consolidate your debt.

If you're dealing with more debt than you can manage, especially if it's spread across multiple high-interest credit cards, debt consolidation may be a good option. Debt consolidation combines all your credit card and unsecured debt into one payment – no more worrying about multiple due dates from different creditors. All qualifying debts are put into one manageable monthly payment with a debt consolidation plan. There are two types of debt consolidation loans:

Credit card balance transfer – good for those with a good or high credit score.

Fixed-rate debt consolidation loan – better for those with a fair or lower credit score.

NextMark offers lower rates on debt consolidation loans that can help you pay down your higher-interest debt faster. If you choose debt consolidation, it's important to maintain your budget and monitor your spending habits. Check out loan options at NextMark here.

5 Find a financial partner.

Any change we undertake from losing 10 pounds to paying off debt takes dedication, discipline, and commitment. Remember, with every step you make towards your goal, you're winning. Sometimes we fall short and overspend – and that's okay. It happens; we're human, after all. If you slip up, be kind to yourself and get back on track.

It helps to have a partner that can guide you through the ups and downs of becoming debt-free. NextMark Credit Union can help guide you achieve your financial goals. Stop by a branch or visit us online at [NextMarkCU.org](https://www.NextMarkCU.org).



LIFE HAPPENS. WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

We know life can be challenging, and sometimes we must adjust our budget to accommodate unforeseen expenses. With NextMark **Skip-a-Pay**, you can skip a loan payment to free up some cash for whatever your life demands.

- Save money and pay later
- \$30 fee for first skip-a-pay and \$20 for any additional
- Skip 2 payments per loan in 12 month period

THIS IS A LIMITED TIME OFFER!

[DOWNLOAD YOUR SKIP A PAY REQUEST HERE](#)

A \$30 fee applies to the first skip-a-pay and \$20 for any additional. Two skip-a payments allowed per loan in a 12-month period. Your account must be in good standing with no negative balances & all loans must be paid as agreed with a minimum of 12 consecutive on-time payments in order to qualify. Interest will continue to accrue during the deferral period, extending the original term & increasing the finance charges. I understand that a payment will be added to the loan at the time of maturity extending the life of the loan by the number of months deferred. Finance charges will continue to accrue on a daily basis at the APR set forth in the loan agreement at loan disbursement. Offer excludes real estate loans, student loans, overdraft protection loans & Visa credit cards. Co-signers on any loan must also sign the deferral request. Offer valid from 1/1/2023 through 3/31/2023.

Questions? We've got answers – just call us at **703-218-9900** or email us at memberservice@nextmarkcu.org



MAKE FILING TAXES EASY

We know tax season can be stressful. Therefore, we have put together useful tips so you can navigate the process with confidence and ease.

- 1. Use your online account to securely access the latest information about your federal tax account and review your most recently filed tax return at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)**
- 2. Gather your tax records as they arrive and keep them organized.**

Create a folder labeled for taxes and start putting all documentation in as you receive it.

Include the following items:

- **Forms W-2** from your employer(s)
 - Forms 1099 from banks, issuing agencies and other payers including **unemployment compensation**, dividends, distributions from a **pension, annuity or retirement plan**
 - **Form 1099-K, 1099-MISC**, W-2 or other income statement if you worked in the **gig economy**
 - **Form 1099-INT** if you were paid **interest**
 - Other income documents and records of **virtual currency** transactions
 - Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, to **reconcile** advance Premium Tax Credits for Marketplace coverage
- 3. Notify the IRS if your address changes and notify the Social Security Administration of a legal name change.**
 - 4. Speed up tax refunds by setting up electronic filing and refunds.**

The fastest way for you to get your tax refund is by filing electronically and choosing direct deposit with NextMark. All you need to set it up is your account number that can be found on your monthly statement, and NextMark's routing number, which is 25607850.



If you are a Veteran, see the **Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP)** for access to financial services at participating banks.

Eight out of 10 taxpayers get their refunds by using direct deposit. The IRS uses the same electronic transfer system to deposit tax refunds that is used by other federal agencies to deposit nearly 98% of all Social Security and Veterans Affairs benefits into millions of accounts.

Direct deposit also avoids the possibility that a refund check could be lost or stolen or returned to the IRS as undeliverable. And it saves taxpayer money.

5. File your taxes from the safety of your home.

Make your first stop **IRS.gov** where you'll find online tools to help you get the information you need. The tools are easy-to-use and available 24 hours a day.

- File and pay taxes
- Explore information about your account
- Get the answers you need about anything tax related

Use the **IRS Free File** to file your taxes from the comfort of your home, and check the status of your refund by visiting **IRS.gov** on the **Where's my Refund** page.

For more tips on filing your taxes successfully, visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/>
Source: **IRS.Gov**



JOIN US VIRTUALLY AT OUR 2023 ANNUAL MEETING.

NextMark’s Annual Meeting will be held on **March 28th at 12 noon**. We will discuss the financial position of the credit union, our 2022 accomplishments, and our goals for the coming year.

If you are interested in joining us virtually, please send us an email at marketing@nextmarkcu.org.

HOME - IT'S WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.



Use NextMark as a guide to fund your next remodel, vacation, or whatever project life throws your way.

- Perfect for immediate needs and one time purchases with a fixed rate
- Borrow up to 100% of your home’s value¹
- 5, 10, 15, and 20-year terms
- No prepayment penalties



Visit the [NextMark Home Equity page](#) for more info.

¹With a 30-year HELOC, borrow up to 100% of your home equity minus first mortgage balance. Certain fees, conditions and restrictions may apply. Home Equity Lines of Credit and Home Equity Loans are secured by your home. If you're paying off an existing real estate loan, the Credit Union does not cover the costs imposed by other lenders if any. Rates and terms subject to change without notice. Loans available for homes located in DC, VA, DE, FL, MD, NC, SC, and WV. Loan approval subject to credit evaluation. Closing costs typically range between \$500 and \$3,000 and depend on property location, property type, occupancy, and loan amount. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.



EXPLORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT NEXTMARK

If you are interested in helping NextMark navigate to the next level by providing leadership support, we invite you to consider one of our volunteer opportunities. Members in good standing can run for a position on the Board of Directors, or volunteer on our Supervisory or Asset Liability Management (ALM) Committees. If you don't know much about the credit union industry but have a thirst for knowledge, ask about our Associate Director positions - they are ideal for those who want to learn more about credit union operations.

Visit Nextmarkcu.org/Volunteer/ for details, or call us at **703-218-9900, ext. 1219** and leave a message.



LEAVE US A **Google** ★★★★★ REVIEW

We love feedback at NextMark and use it to celebrate wins and improve on opportunities. Reviews are important to us; our team strives to hit the mark and deliver a memorable experience with every interaction.

Please take a minute to submit a google review by clicking [HERE](#) or scan the **QR Code** above to get started.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All NextMark Credit Union branches will be closed:

● **Martin Luther King Jr.**
Monday, January 16th

● **Presidents Day**
Monday, February 20th



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FIND ATM LOCATIONS

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DOWNLOAD THE NEXTMARK GO APP



BRANCHES & HOURS

FAIRFAX BRANCH

4201 Members Way
Fairfax, VA 22030

Lobby Hours

M, T, W, F: 9am - 5pm
Thurs: 9:30am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm
Sun: Closed

Drive-Thru Hours

M, T, W, F: 9am - 5pm
Thurs: 9:30am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm
The Night Drop will remain open at this location.

HERRITY BRANCH

12055 Government
Center Parkway, Suite 102
Fairfax, VA 22035

SPRINGFIELD BRANCH

6506 Loisdale Road
Suite 100
Springfield, VA 22150

Lobby Hours

M, T, W, F: 9am - 5pm
Thurs: 10am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm
Sun: Closed

Drive-Thru Hours

M, T, W, F: 9am - 5pm
Th: 10am - 5pm
Sat: 9am - 1pm

GOV. CENTER BRANCH

12000 Government
Center Parkway, Suite 266
Fairfax, VA 22035

Lobby Hours

M,W,F: Closed
T, Th: 10am - 2pm
Sat/Sun: Closed



*All rates and terms shown in this publication are subject to change without notice.