



The Benefits of Using Credit Cards

The next time you buy a frequently purchased item like groceries or gas for your vehicle, you will likely have several different payment options. Using your credit card can have several benefits if you use it responsibly.

FRAUD/UNAUTHORIZED USE PROTECTION

Most major credit card networks provide zero fraud liability coverage, meaning you are generally not responsible for unauthorized, fraudulent charges on your credit card if you promptly report the charge. SECU issues Visa® Credit Cards with Visa Zero Liability Policy¹ protection at no extra cost. In addition, SECU and many credit card issuers monitor for potentially fraudulent purchases and may decline suspicious transactions.

IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Using your credit card responsibly may help improve your credit score, especially if you have limited credit history or a low credit score. You don't have to spend a lot or accumulate a lot of debt on your credit cards to raise your credit score. Consider making small purchases with your credit card, and then pay the total bill when your statement arrives. Making timely account payments may help improve your credit score.

TIPS FOR USING YOUR CREDIT RESPONSIBLY:

- 1. Stay aware of your credit limit.** Carrying a balance on credit accounts accrues interest, which adds to the amount you owe. Try to keep your total balance to no more than 30% of your credit limit, to reduce interest charges, maintain access to credit for emergencies, and protect your credit score. Higher use may negatively impact your credit score.
- 2. Make your payments on time.** Credit bureaus consider making on-time payments one of the most important factors impacting your credit score. Sign up for auto-pay options to ensure your payments are made on time.
- 3. Don't use a credit card if you are struggling to manage your payments.** Adding more debt on top of what you already owe just makes it worse. Stick to paying with cash to avoid over-spending and focus on paying down your debt first.
- 4. Watch out for hidden "convenience" fees.** Some payments made with credit cards accrue extra fees, like for utilities and other services. Make sure to read and understand the fine print before you use your credit card in these instances.

The SECU Visa® Credit Card offers a low rate, and more benefits and options are on the way for SECU Credit Card holders.



At SECU, we're dedicated to ensuring you have the tools and resources you need to meet your goals. Visit your local branch Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or call our Member Services Support at (888) 732-8562.



1. Visa's Zero Liability policy covers U.S.-issued cards only and does not apply to ATM transactions, PIN transactions not processed by Visa, or certain commercial card transactions. Cardholders must notify their issuing financial institution promptly of any unauthorized use. Contact your issuer for more details. For more details on the Visa's Zero Liability Policy visit their website: Visa's Zero Liability Policy.