



how to handle collectors



directions

1. Know your money.

If you are familiar with your finances, the bill collectors will take you more seriously. They will also be more likely to work with you to solve your credit problems.

Know exactly how much your income is and what your expenses are.

Think about any out-of-the-ordinary sources of money you might have:

Borrowing from friends or relatives? Garage sale?

Bank or credit union? Part-time job? Second mortgage?

Savings from your normal expenditures?

2. Determine what you will be late paying.

Go through all your bills and determine which are past due. Make a list of due dates and amount owed.

Company	Amount Owed	\$	Due Date
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3. Call them before they call you.

If you take the initiative to call on an account that is or will be past due, you will show your resolve to settle your debt. Again, this will make the bill collector more likely to work with you.

4. Be prepared and in control.

Think about the best time for you to talk to a bill collector. Is it at work or at home? Morning or evening? Saturday or Sunday? During the week? Write down the best days and times, when you will be most relaxed and prepared to talk. When the bill collector calls, explain you're trying to work out a plan, and make an appointment for that time you know you can talk.