

24 HOUR INQUIRY REMOVAL GUIDE!

LEVEL UP YOUR CREDIT

A hand holding a smartphone horizontally. From the screen of the phone, several glowing blue arrows of varying heights and widths rise upwards, creating a fan-like effect. The background is a dark blue gradient with some light blue bokeh effects.

FIRST STEP TO FIXING YOUR CREDIT AND
IMPROVING YOUR CREDITWORTHINESS

VANESSA RUVALCABA

It is important to remove inquiries from your credit report for several reasons:

- 1. Impact on Credit Score:** Inquiries, especially multiple inquiries within a short period of time, can have a negative impact on your credit score. Each inquiry represents a potential new debt or credit application, and lenders may view multiple inquiries as a sign of financial instability or desperation for credit. By removing unauthorized or incorrect inquiries, you can help protect and improve your credit score.
- 2. Lender Perception:** Lenders and creditors may view a high number of inquiries as a red flag, even if they are authorized. It may give the impression that you are actively seeking credit or taking on more debt, which can make lenders hesitant to approve your applications or offer you favorable terms. Removing unnecessary inquiries helps present a more positive image to potential lenders.
- 3. Accuracy of Credit Report:** Your credit report should accurately reflect your credit history and creditworthiness. Unauthorized or incorrect inquiries can distort this information and may lead to unfair assessments by lenders. By removing these inquiries, you can ensure that your credit report is an accurate representation of your credit behavior and financial responsibility.
- 4. Future Credit Applications:** When you apply for credit in the future, such as a loan or a credit card, lenders will review your credit report to assess your creditworthiness. By removing unnecessary inquiries, you can increase your chances of being approved for credit and potentially qualify for better terms and interest rates.

Removing inquiries from your credit report is an important step in maintaining a healthy credit profile and improving your overall creditworthiness. It helps protect your credit score, presents a more positive image to lenders, ensures accurate credit reporting, and increases your chances of future credit approvals.

Get a copy of your credit report here and let's begin the process:

www.smartcredit.com/newlight



Reviewing your credit report for unauthorized inquiries is an important step in protecting yourself from identity theft and unauthorized use of your personal information.

Steps to remember:

1. Obtain a Copy of Your Credit Report
2. Check the Inquiry Section
3. Identify Unauthorized Hard Inquiries
4. Take Action
5. Monitor Your Credit

Regularly reviewing your credit report for unauthorized inquiries is an important part of maintaining your financial security.

Call all 3 Credit Bureaus



Experian: 1-855-414-6048 Enter your social then press 2, then 1, then 2, then 3. Ask to speak to the fraud department.



Equifax: 1-888-548-7878. They change their process often. Follow the prompts and ask to speak with the fraud department.



Trans Union: 1-800-916-8800 Press O to speak to a Rep and then ask the rep to transfer you to the fraud department.

Say that you noticed unauthorized inquiries on your report or you noticed someone applied for something in your name. Make them aware that according to the FCRA (Fair Credit Reporting ACT), legally these unverified & unauthorized item **MUST** be removed!! List all of the accounts that are not attached to open or closed accounts.

If you have Citi Bank card that you opened in May 2018, and you have an inquiry from Citi Bank dated May 2019, this item cannot be deleted. If you have an inquiry from Chase & you do not have an open or closed account associated with that account, you can get it removed.

- They will ask if you have submitted an FTC/Police report. If you have not, you can file an FTC Report online or Police report in the city you reside in.

Note:

They may place you on hold, **DO NOT PANIC!** When they come back they will say they will investigate & it may take up to 30 days to complete the investigation. However, the following business day, all of the inquiries you asked to get deleted should be deleted. (Equifax may take longer.)

Inquiry Removal Letters

Dear (Credit Bureau),

I recently reviewed my credit report and found unauthorized inquiries.

I contacted the below creditors and they have NO proof I initiated such inquiries, nor written authorization and have failed to provide any permissible purpose. Since, they do not have my authorization, written nor verbal I ask that you DELETE these unauthorized inquiries from my credit report immediately as there is no evidence of any authorization, nor any permissible purpose.

The following inquiries are unauthorized:

Creditor Name

Address

Phone #

Inquiry Date: 00-00-0000

Creditor Name

Address

Phone #

Inquiry Date: 00-00-0000

of the Fair Credit Reporting Act Permissible Purposes of Consumer Reports 15 U.S. Code § 1681b in general. Subject to subsection (e), any consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer report under the following circumstances and no other:

(F) otherwise has a legitimate business need for the information in connection with a business transaction that is initiated by the consumer.

Under 15 U.S. Code § 1681i, Paragraph (5) Treatment of Inaccurate or Unverifiable Information (A) In general. If, after any reinvestigation under paragraph (1) of any information disputed by a consumer, an item of the information is found to be inaccurate or incomplete or cannot be verified, the consumer reporting agency must- Delete it from my credit report.

I understand that per the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you are required to notify me of your investigation results within 30 days. My contact information is provided below and I have included proof of my social security and current address to avoid any delays in your response time.

I look forward to receiving an updated copy of my credit report reflecting the above correction. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here

Inquiry Removal Letters

Request to Delete Unauthorized Inquiries

Bureau Name:

Date: _____

Bureau Address:

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of me writing this letter is to inform you that the following company(ies) have made unauthorized inquiries on my credit report. This was just brought to my attention as of today while checking the reasons behind my score being at a number that has truly caused a negative impact on my life and future endeavors. I have listed the name(s) of the company(ies), and the dates in which the inquiries were made.

Company Name

Date of Inquiry

Since I did not authorize these companies to obtain my credit report, I respectfully ask that these items be removed immediately and my credit score be adjusted accordingly. In addition, I am requesting a copy of my updated credit report reflecting these changes be sent to me immediately. I appreciate your attention and consideration in this matter.

SSN: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Sincerely,

Your Name Here

Inquiry Removal Letters

{Name}

{Address}

{Phone #}

{Credit Bureau: Name}

{Credit Bureau: Address}

{Date}

RE: Request for Investigation of Unauthorized Credit Inquiry

Dear Sir or Madam,

I checked my personal credit report, which I acquired from your organization on {insert date of report} and I noticed an unauthorized credit inquiry had been made.

I contacted {inquiry source's name}, who conducted the inquiry and asked them to remove their credit inquiry from my credit report.

I request that you investigate the [inquiry source's name] inquiry on my credit report to determine who authorized the inquiry. If you find my allegation to be true once your investigation is complete, please remove the inquiry and send me an updated copy of my credit report at the address listed above.

If you find the inquiry referenced above to be valid, please send me a description of the procedures used in your investigation within 15 business days of completing the investigation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter,

{Signature}

{Printed Name}

Credit Bureau Mailing Address

Equifax Information Services, LLC
P.O. Box 740256
Atlanta, GA 30374

Experian
P.O. Box 4500
Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion Consumer Solutions
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000



NOTE:

The credit bureaus
have multiple
addresses for you
to send
correspondence.

What You Need to Know About the Basics..

What should I include with my letter?

Be sure to include a copy of the credit report page evidencing the credit inquiry. It also doesn't hurt to highlight the section, just so there's no mistake. Also a copy of your ID card, Social Security Card (color copies) and proof of address.

What's the difference between hard inquiries and soft inquiries?

Each time a bank, lender, credit card issuer, or insurance company receives an application from you, an inquiry is made on your credit report. They have been authorized by you and are called "hard inquiries."

Unsolicited credit card offers that come in the mail are called "**soft inquiries.**" Credit card issuers, insurance companies, and lenders make those inquiries. You did not make them, so they don't impact your credit score, even though they appear on your credit report.

Pre-approvals and pre-qualifications initiated on your own usually also only constitute a soft inquiry. However, to be sure, check with the creditor before agreeing to one.

Q: What is an inquiry on a credit report?

A: An inquiry on a credit report is a record of when someone, such as a lender or creditor, requests to view your credit history. It occurs when you apply for credit, such as a loan or credit card, and the lender or creditor checks your creditworthiness.

Q: How long do inquiries stay on a credit report?

A: Inquiries can stay on your credit report for varying periods of time. Hard inquiries, which occur when you apply for credit, generally stay on your report for about two years. However, they only impact your credit score for the first 12 months. Soft inquiries, such as when you check your own credit or when a lender pre-approves you for a loan, do not affect your credit score and typically do not appear on your credit report.

Q: Can I remove all inquiries from my credit report?

A: No, you cannot remove all inquiries from your credit report. Valid inquiries made by lenders or creditors when you apply for credit are considered legitimate and will remain on your report for the designated time period. However, you may be able to remove inaccurate or unauthorized inquiries with the proper dispute process.

Q&A Continued...

Q: How can I dispute an inquiry on my credit report?

A: To dispute an inquiry on your credit report, you can call or send a written letter to the credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). In your dispute, provide clear details about the inquiry, explain why it is inaccurate or unauthorized, and include any supporting documentation.

Q: What if the credit bureaus do not remove the inaccurate inquiry?

A: If the credit bureaus do not remove an inaccurate or unauthorized inquiry after your dispute, you can escalate your complaint. You may consider filing a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) or consulting with a credit repair professional or a consumer rights attorney for further assistance.

Q: Will removing inquiries improve my credit score?

A: Removing inquiries from your credit report will have a positive impact on your credit score, especially if you have multiple recent inquiries. However, the impact of removing inquiries on your credit score will vary depending on your overall credit history and other factors.

Please note:

That the answers provided are for informational purposes only and should not be considered as financial or legal advice. It is recommended to consult with a professional for personalized guidance regarding your specific situation.

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