

ICICI BANK CUSTOMER EDUCATION SERIES

TIMES BUSINESS ASSOCIATE COMMUNICATION

Did You Know?

A vast majority of customers in India use cards primarily as a transaction device and pay their entire balance in full well before their due date.



A good credit track record on your card will always help you in the long run. Don't let it deteriorate.

Managing Credit Card Debt

- ▶ If you have no intentions of revolving on your card then ensure that you pay the entire amount outstanding on your card well before the due date so that the credit into your account happens in time.
- ▶ Of all your debts, always repay your card outstandings first as they are the most costly form of debt. If you have outstandings on multiple cards, repay the one with the maximum interest first.
- ▶ Explore if you can repay your card debts by taking an alternative form of finance such as a secured or unsecured personal loan.
- ▶ You can also ease out the repayment of your credit card debt by converting the dues on your credit card into equated monthly instalments (EMIs), if your bank has this facility and you are eligible for it.
- ▶ Ensuring that you build a good track record of timely repayments and not having a leveraged financial position will ensure that you have a good credit rating with credit bureaus.
- ▶ In the long run, make it a part of your lifestyle to take a **financial health check at least once a year**.
 - ▶ DISHA Financial Counselling offers you one such financial health check, which will make you aware of your financial stability and hence prevent you from a possible debt situation in the future.
 - ▶ You can make an online self-check by visiting the website www.dishafc.org or you can contact any of the DISHA centres (details on the website) to receive the personal attention of an expert.
- ▶ Your credit card is a convenience tool primarily and a debt management tool for emergencies. Do not revolve credit on your card for long periods, as this is likely to invite financial crisis.
- ▶ If you face difficulties with your card repayments, check with your bank for alternative ways of managing your debt proactively.



SMS CONTEST

Question: You can avoid revolving credit on your card by ensuring that _____.

- Answer:
- A. you pay the entire amount outstanding on the card well before the due date
 - B. you pay the entire amount outstanding on the card after the due date
 - C. you pay the minimum amount due on the card before the due date

To answer, SMS DISHA A, B or C to 53030 and win a 2N 3D holiday.*
Contest open for the day of publication.

*Terms and conditions apply.
Visit www.dishafc.org for details.

We welcome your questions, suggestions and feedback on this column. Please use the 'Email Us' link at www.icicibank.com or send us an SMS to 53030. Please include your full name, address and phone number. Your comments may be edited for clarity and space.

BE AN INFORMED CONSUMER. Watch this space every Monday.