

Debt Management Strategy Worksheet

Analyze your debt situation and develop a personalized repayment plan

Part 1: Debt Inventory

List all your debts to understand your complete financial picture.

Creditor/Type	Balance	Interest Rate (APR)	Minimum Payment	Due Date
e.g., Credit Card A	\$0	%	\$0	Date
e.g., Credit Card B	\$0	%	\$0	Date
e.g., Personal Loan	\$0	%	\$0	Date
e.g., Medical Bill	\$0	%	\$0	Date
e.g., Auto Loan	\$0	%	\$0	Date
TOTAL	\$0	-	\$0	-

Calculate Totals

Part 2: Financial Snapshot

Calculate your debt-to-income ratio to assess your situation.

Gross Monthly Income

\$0

Total Monthly Debt Payments

\$0

Calculate Ratio

DEBT-TO-INCOME RATIO

0%

Enter your income and debt payments

Understanding Your Ratio:

Under 20% = Excellent | 20-35% = Good | 36-43% = Caution | Over 43% = Concern

Part 3: Strategy Selection

Select the debt repayment strategy that best fits your situation.

Debt Avalanche

Pay highest interest rate first. Saves the most money over time.

Debt Snowball

Pay smallest balance first. Builds momentum with quick wins.

Consolidation

Combine into one loan. Simplifies payments, may lower rate.

Why did you choose this strategy?

Explain your reasoning based on your debt situation, financial goals, and personal preferences...

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Part 4: Repayment Prioritization

Order your debts from first to last to pay off based on your chosen strategy.

Priority	Debt Name	Reason for This Position
1st	Debt to pay first	Why this one first?
2nd	Debt to pay second	Why this one second?
3rd	Debt to pay third	Why this one third?
4th	Debt to pay fourth	Why this one fourth?
5th	Debt to pay last	Why this one last?

Part 5: Monthly Budget Allocation

Plan how you'll allocate money toward debt each month.

Total available for debt payments

\$0

Amount beyond minimum payments

\$0

Payment Allocation Plan

Debt #1: Minimum + extra = total |

Debt #2: Minimum payment only

Debt #3: Minimum payment only

Debt #4: Minimum payment only

Debt #5: Minimum payment only

Part 6: Credit Rebuilding Checklist

Actions to improve your credit while managing debt.

Immediate Actions

- Set up autopay for all accounts
- Request free credit reports
- Dispute any errors on reports
- Calculate credit utilization ratio
- Contact creditors about hardship programs

Ongoing Habits

- Pay all bills on time
- Keep credit utilization under 30%
- Don't close old accounts
- Limit new credit applications
- Monitor credit score monthly

Part 7: When to Seek Professional Help

Check conditions that apply to your situation.

- Total debt exceeds annual income
- Can only afford minimum payments
- Receiving collection calls or letters
- Considering bankruptcy
- Facing wage garnishment or lawsuits
- No clear path to paying off debt within 5 years

If you checked 2+ boxes: Consider contacting a nonprofit credit counseling agency. Find one at NFCC.org or call 211 for local resources.

Reflection Questions

1. What changes to your spending habits could free up more money for debt payments?

Identify at least 3 specific areas where you could reduce spending...

2. What is your target date for becoming debt-free, and what milestones will you celebrate along the way?

Set realistic dates and identify progress markers...

3. How will your life be different when you're debt-free? What will you do with the money you were paying toward debt?

Visualize your debt-free life and plan for future financial goals...