

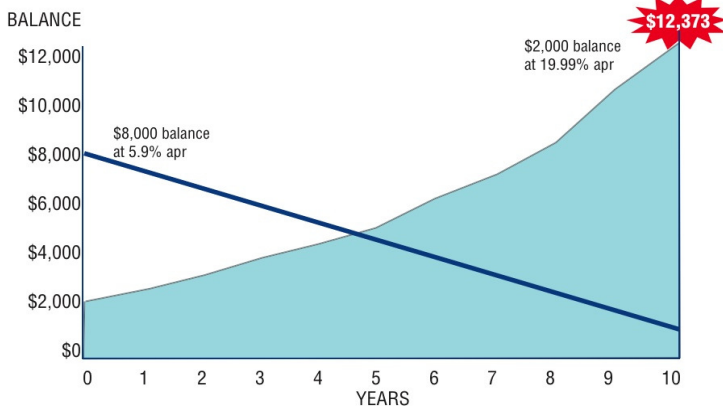
A Cash Advance Could Bury You In Debt

How a \$2,000 cash advance grows into a \$12,373 debt.

Example: To get a lower interest rate, you transfer the \$8,000 balance on your old credit card to a new credit card with a 5.9% APR. Then you use your new card for a \$2,000 cash advance.

But there are two catches. 1) Interest on cash advances is 19.99% APR. 2) The fine print reads, "Allocates your payments to balances with lower APRs before balances with higher APRs." Which means that your minimum monthly payments are going toward the balance with the 5.9% APR for purchases. No payment amount is applied to the \$2,000 cash advance.

Translation: Until you pay off every penny of the \$8,000 balance that's growing at 5.9% APR, you'll have a separate \$2,000 balance growing at 19.99% APR. And slowly, quietly turning into a mountain of debt.



Short-term gain or long-term pain?

With some cards, you pay one rate for purchases and a higher rate for cash advances. Worse, your payments might be credited to balances with lower APRs before higher APRs.

It's a common trick with a painful lesson attached. As you can see by the example to the left. But you can choose to chart a different course.

Tip: Pick a card with the same rate for everything.

Beware of credit card tricks.

On the road to financial independence, the right credit card can smooth the way. But the wrong card can throw up huge obstacles. Especially if you don't pay off your balance in full after each month's use.

Of course, paying it off every month can be tough. But when you don't, the tricks some credit card companies pull can be a whole lot tougher.

Loan Special Plattsburgh City School District FCU

Sample Monthly Payments

\$3,000 Loan
36 mos. \$94.04
48 mos. \$74.69
60 mos \$63.77
72 mos \$57.11
84 mos \$52.99

\$10,000 Loan
36 mos. \$313.46
48 mos. \$248.95
60 mos \$212.57
72 mos \$190.44
84 mos \$176.63

\$15,000 Loan
36 mos. \$470.19
48 mos. \$373.42
60 mos \$318.85
72 mos \$285.66
84 mos \$264.95

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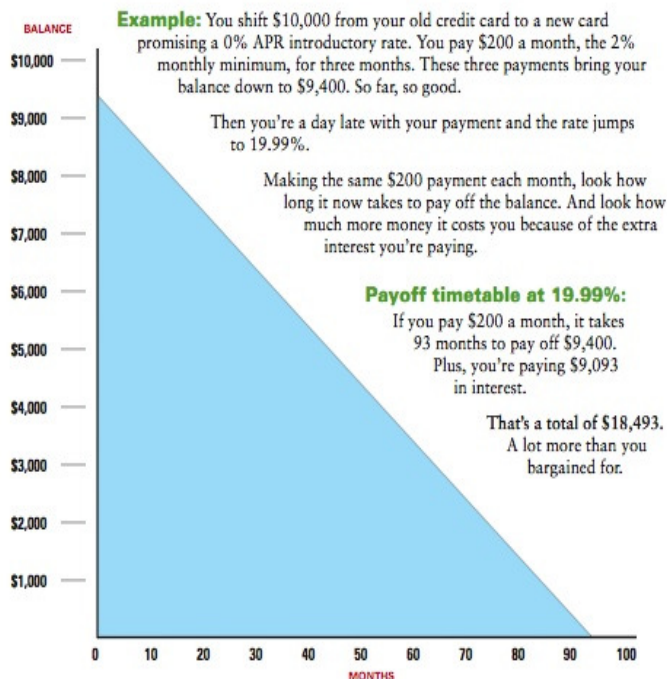
Get a
Consolidation Loan
at the Credit Union
and get a handle on your
DEBT

LOAN Consolidation SPECIAL

- 8% APR – 3yrs
- 9% APR – 4yrs
- 10% APR – 5yrs
- 11% APR – 6yrs.
- 12% APR – 7yrs

A Trick That Can Hurt More Than A Late Fee

What happens when 0% APR jumps to 19.99%.



Paid Late = Raised Late

Some credit card companies are endlessly inventive at finding new ways to separate you from your money. So if you're playing their card game, better know the rules, read the fine print, and watch out for their tricks.

One day late, years of higher interest.

A late monthly payment can cost you a lot more than a late fee. It can raise your rate in a flash. And that super-low introductory rate will disappear.

In its place, you could find a shocker: May be 19.99% APR. Even 29.99%. Or higher.

Tip: Mail your payment at least a week in advance of the due date, and use the pre-addressed envelope. Hand-addressed envelopes could be held up in the mailroom and count as a late payment.

Hurting your credit score.

Some companies report a late payment to the credit bureaus. If a credit bureau lowers your credit score, you might have to pay a higher interest rate when you buy that new car or ne home. And that could cost you thousands of dollars over the life of the loan.