

DebtClarityTools.com · Built by a PhD Mathematician

5 Debt Payoff Mistakes Most People Make Before They Even Start

Are you making #3?

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MISTAKE #1

Guessing What You Owe

Most people have a vague number in their head — not the real balances, real APRs, and real minimums. You can't build a plan with incomplete data.

Fix: List every debt on one page before you do anything else.

MISTAKE #2

Treating a 24% Card Like a 7% Loan

Interest rate differences determine which debt costs you the most every single month. Ignoring them means you're probably targeting the wrong debt first.

Fix: Sort by APR first. Your highest rate is your most expensive debt.

MISTAKE #3

Calling Minimums a Plan

Minimum payments are designed by lenders to keep you paying as long as possible. They're not your strategy — they're the bank's strategy for you.

Fix: Even +\$25/month moves your finish date. Run it in the calculator.

MISTAKE #4

Splitting Extra Money Across Every Debt

It feels productive. The math says it barely moves any of them. Stacking it on one debt creates real momentum.

Fix: One target at a time. Finish it. Roll that payment forward.

MISTAKE #5

Starting Without a Way to Track Progress

Motivation fades — usually by month 2. Seeing your finish date move is what keeps you going when motivation doesn't show up.

Fix: Re-run your calculator monthly. Watch the date move.

Your 3-Step Starting Point

- ① Run the free calculator — see your real payoff date
 - ② List all your debts on one page
 - ③ Pick ONE strategy. Lock it for 90 days.
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