

What credit rating do you need to buy a house?

You've spent years saving up your deposit for a new home. You've waited for the right moment. Now it's here. The only thing left is to secure your mortgage. We can help show you how.

If you're thinking of buying a home, you'll need a credit rating that's good enough to secure a mortgage. Your credit rating (also known as a credit score) is a snapshot of how you've managed money in the past – including past borrowing, repayments, how much of your available credit you routinely use, how many payments you've missed and several other factors to create a score. The higher the score, the better your chance of being offered a better deal on your mortgage.

There are three major credit reference agencies (CRAs) – each with a slightly different scoring system. So it's a good idea to check your credit rating with all three to find out how you rate. That way, you'll know whether you're likely to get a mortgage.

What credit score do you need to get a mortgage?

Most of the top credit rating agencies have five categories for credit scores: excellent, good, fair, poor and very poor. The exact score you need will vary from lender to lender, since there isn't a minimum credit score needed for buying a house. But the higher your credit score, the better your chances of getting the mortgage you need.

Each credit reference agency uses a slightly different scoring system, so your score will be different with each. Therefore, it's a good idea to check with all the agencies before applying for a mortgage.

What are the main credit reference agencies?

The three main credit reference agencies in the UK are Experian, Equifax and TransUnion (formerly Callcredit). These are the ones most lenders rely on when considering someone for a mortgage. You can [check your credit rating](#) with all three agencies for yourself.

What is considered a good credit score?

Since different credit agencies use different rating systems, a good score will vary from one agency to the next. For Experian, a score of 881-960 is considered good, and a score of 961-999 is considered excellent. For Equifax, a score of 420-465 is considered good, and a score of 466-700 is considered excellent. For TransUnion (formerly known as Callcredit), a credit score of 604-627 is considered good, and a score of 628-710 is considered excellent.

How to boost your credit score

Experian: You can instantly increase your credit score by up to 60 points with Experian Boost by connecting your Bank Account(s).

It will check that you are paying all your regular bills on time & have a consistent income source.

Credit Ladder: This is a great way for people who have been renting! 99% of the time you are paying rent (for someone else's mortgage) and it doesn't show on your credit file, this is a simple way to get those payments reported

Electoral Roll: By not being on the electoral roll, not only are you missing out on making your vote count, you're also impacting your credit score! Simply apply with the Electoral Office & your score will increase within a couple of months