**Need a few points like yesterday? A Rapid Rescore is designed to boost your credit in short order.**

**What is a Rapid Rescore?**

A Rapid Rescore is a process that lenders can use that quickly re-calculates a borrower’s credit score after they’ve don’t something to imprve it, like pay off a credit card, dispute an incorrect late payment, or the like. Instead of waiting for the correction to appear on the credit score naturally – which will take much longer – a Rapid Rescore is a conveneitn service that will process that updated score in short order.

**When will a Rapid Rescore come in handy?**

contracts) have deadlines,

rates move higher while you wait)

rate lock

**Will a Rapid Rescore really help me?**Lenders use rapid rescoring predominantly for mortgage loans because they are more time sensitive than other loans.

Plus, even a small increase in a mortgage interest rate can cost the borrower thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan.

If your credit score is within a few points of qualifying you for a better interest rate, having your credit reports updated via rapid rescoring can give you the boost you need.

Say your current credit score will get you a 4.75% rate on a 30-year mortgage for $250,000. After rapid rescoring, your new credit score qualifies you for a 4.25% rate. The update results in savings of $74 a month or $26,737 in interest over the life of the loan.

**How rapid is a Rapid Rescore?**

Let’s say you do something that will positively impact your credit score, like pay down a credit card with a high balance or get a creditor to agree to remove an old collections from your report. You can wait for the credit bueraus to take notice and process that information in their own due time, of course, but that could mean a month or sometimes longer for your score to rise as its recalculated. Instead, a Rapid Rescore usually can do the same thing within a few days, and sometimes as little as 48 hours in extreme cases. But with all of the documentation it takes, it’s best to conservatively give it about a week from start to finish.

If time is money in some situations, then having a new, improves score in days – not weeks or months – can prove invaluable.

**Do you qualify for a Rapid Rescore?**

To qualify, you must have verifiable proof that the negative item in question is inaccurate.

To qualify for rapid rescoring, you must have verifiable proof that the negative item in question is inaccurate.

**Can I do a Rapid Rescore myself or who can help me?**

Rapid rescoring isn’t something you can do on your own. To use the service, you’ll need to work through a lender (often the lender that you’re using to buy a home or refinance).

Your lender has relationships with third-party service providers who handle the logistics of updating your credit, and your lender also has the information needed to determine if rapid rescoring will be helpful.

**How much does a Rapid Rescore cost?**

The cost of rapid rescoring depends on the lender. Some absorb the expense as part of their service offering, whereas others may pass it on to the borrower.

How Much Does It Cost?

Rapid rescore is a service that your lender provides, and you typically don’t pay a fee for the service. Lenders are not allowed to charge a separate fee for the service under federal law (FCRA). However, nothing is free, so you’re paying for your lender’s capabilities in the interest rate and closing costs you pay.

Federal law gives consumers the right to dispute information with the credit bureaus and a dispute “must be investigated at no charge to the consumer,” says Katrina Blodgett, a staff attorney for the Federal Trade Commission. But that same law sets out a timeline for standard disputes that can take up to a month or more to investigate and resolve, she says.

Experian prohibits its clients from charging consumers for rapid rescores, Sweet says.

That's because credit reporting agencies view rapid rescore requests as an "expedited dispute process," she says and, under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, borrowers aren't allowed to be charged for disputing inaccurate information. "A lot of loan officers will tell you they are not aware of this, but they are," she adds. "It even states on our forms that the mortgage company fills out to request a rescore that the borrower cannot be charged for it."

**But how will I know if it really will work?**

The process is reasonably predictable because lenders usually run a simulator beforehand to see how the update would affect your credit score.

Your mortgage broker uses a computer simulator to see that you have an opportunity to improve your credit.

. "Loan officers have access to something called a 'what-if' simulator," says Sanford. "A what-if simulation is basically a mathematical model that the mortgage companies work with to say, 'What if they paid off their credit card?'

**When a Rapid Rescore isn’t your best bet.**

**It isn’t credit repair**

Therefore, it won’t remove things from your credit reports that belong there. For example, if you have any past delinquencies, collection accounts or a bankruptcy that aren’t in error, rapid rescoring won’t make any difference.

If your credit report has legitimate delinquencies, bankruptcies, or collection accounts, focus on fixing your credit score.

**When it may not work**

Although lenders can simulate how removing an incorrect item or paying down a large debt balance can change your credit score, it’s not foolproof. For example, if you have other recent negative credit events that haven’t yet popped up on your reports, those can negate or diminish the positive effect of rapid rescoring.

Rapid rescoring also won’t work if the reporting creditor doesn’t acknowledge the item in question as a mistake. If you dispute a late payment, for instance, but the creditor has no record of timely payment and you can’t prove it, the lender likely won’t even attempt a rapid rescore.

**Who benefits the most from a Rapid Resocre?**The clients who are most likely candidates are potential borrowers with scores from the mid-600s to the 720s who are “five to 10 points off” from where they want to be, Bailey says.

Expect small gains: If you need a substantial increase in your credit score, don’t put too much faith in rapid rescoring. In most cases, lenders are looking for a modest bump (20 points or so) to help your loan get approved. That said, if you remove a serious error like a bankruptcy, you might see more dramatic results.