

Steve's Ultimate Debt Repayment Plan

A Step-by-Step Guide to Paying Off Debt Faster Without Costly Mistakes

▶ Debt can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to stay stuck. With the right plan, you can take control of your money, pay off debt faster, and avoid the common mistakes that keep people in financial stress.

This guide will show you exactly how to tackle your debt the smart way—without gimmicks or unrealistic sacrifices.

◆ Step 1: Get a Clear Picture of Your Debt

Before making a plan, you need to know exactly what you owe.

- Make a list of all your debts, including:
 - Credit cards
 - Personal loans
 - Auto loans
 - Student loans
 - Medical bills
 - Any other outstanding balances

✓ Include these details for each debt:

- Total balance
- Minimum monthly payment
- Interest rate (APR)
- Due date

★ Why this matters: Understanding your debt situation helps you prioritize what to tackle first and avoid missing payments.

You can download a handy spreadsheet to do this, here.

◆ Step 2: Choose the Best Debt Payoff Strategy for You

There are two main methods to aggressively pay down debt:

7 Option 1: The Debt Snowball (Best for Motivation)

- Focus on paying off the smallest debt first (while making minimum payments on the others).
- Once the smallest debt is gone, roll that payment into the next smallest debt.
- Repeat until you're debt-free.
- ★ Why this works: You'll see quick wins that keep you motivated!
- Option 2: The Debt Avalanche (Best for Saving on Interest)
 - Focus on the debt with the highest interest rate first (while making minimum payments on others).
 - Once that debt is gone, roll that payment into the next highest interest debt.
 - Repeat until all debts are paid.
- **⊀** Why this works: You'll pay less interest over time, saving you money.
- Which method should you choose? If you need quick wins to stay motivated, go with Snowball. If you want to save the most money, go with Avalanche.

◆ Step 3: Cut Out High-Interest Debt First

- Credit cards are your biggest enemy if you carry a balance. The average APR is 20% or higher—which means you're paying way more than you should.
- **▼ Stop using credit cards** while paying them off.
- ☑ Call your credit card companies and request a lower APR—they may say no, but it's worth trying!

- Consider a balance transfer to a 0% interest card (if you qualify).
- ✓ If your debt is too much, get expert help from Damon Day (DamonDay.com), a trusted debt coach.
- ★ Why this matters: The faster you eliminate high-interest debt, the more money stays in your pocket.

Step 4: Find Extra Money to Throw at Your Debt

If you want to pay off debt faster, you need extra cash to put toward your balances. Here's where to find it:

- **6** Cut back on unnecessary expenses (streaming subscriptions, eating out, impulse shopping).
- Solution Negotiate lower bills (call your internet, phone, or insurance company to ask for a discount).
- **Sell things you don't use** (old electronics, furniture, clothes).
- **Solution** Use side hustle income (freelancing, rideshare driving, selling online).
- **Apply work bonuses or tax refunds toward debt** instead of spending them.
- ★ Why this matters: Every extra dollar you throw at your debt gets you one step closer to financial freedom.

Step 5: Automate Your Debt Payments

One of the biggest mistakes people make is **forgetting to make payments**, which leads to **late fees and credit score damage**.

- Set up autopay for at least the minimum payment on every debt.
- Schedule extra payments manually to speed up your payoff.
- If you get paid biweekly, make payments twice a month instead of once.
- ★ Why this matters: Automating payments keeps you on track without the risk of late fees.

◆ Step 6: Avoid Common Debt Payoff Mistakes

- ODN'T fall for "quick-fix" debt relief scams (many promise relief but trap you in worse financial situations).
- ODON'T close old credit cards after paying them off (this can lower your credit score).
- **ODON'T take out new loans to pay off old ones** without a clear plan.
- ODON'T ignore your credit report—check it for free at AnnualCreditReport.com.
- ★ Why this matters: Avoiding these mistakes protects your progress and prevents setbacks.

Step 7: Build a Safety Net to Stay Debt-Free

Once you're on the path to paying off debt, make sure you never fall back into it.

- Save \$1,000 as a mini emergency fund first (so you don't use credit cards for emergencies).
- Once debt-free, save 3–6 months' worth of expenses in an emergency fund.
- ☑ Use credit wisely—treat it like a tool, not free money.
- **Why this matters:** Having an emergency fund prevents you from relying on credit cards when life happens.



Need More Help? Get Expert Debt Advice

If your debt feels unmanageable, you don't have to do this alone.

I highly recommend Damon Day—a debt coach who helps people navigate their options and avoid bad financial decisions. Visit DamonDay.com for personalized help.

Solution Your Next Steps: Make This Happen Today!

- $1 \square$ List out your debts (Step 1).
- 2□ Choose a payoff strategy (Step 2).
- 3 Find extra money to pay off debt faster (Step 4).
- 4 Set up autopay so you never miss a payment (Step 5).
- 5 Download this guide & keep it handy!
- **Every step you take today brings you closer to financial freedom.** You've got this! **L**

Almost Final Thought

Debt doesn't have to control your life. The key is to take action one step at a time—and before you know it, you'll be debt-free.

- **Boop that like button** if this was helpful.
- Subscribe for more financial tips.
- **▼** Visit GetOutOfDebt.org for more free resources.

If you want to get really fancy, Download my book "Eliminate Your Debt Like a Pro"

