Starting a debt payoff plan

You don’t need to have it all figured out. You need a list, a plan, and the next payment.

Step 1: Look at all of it

Write down every debt: name, balance, interest rate, minimum payment, due date. Yes, it can be a gut punch. That’s normal. Seeing the whole thing is the first win.

Step 2: Pick an order

- **Snowball**: smallest balance first. Quick wins keep you going.
- **Avalanche**: highest interest rate first. Saves the most money.
- Both work. The best plan is the one you’ll stick with. Try both in the debt payoff calculator.

Step 3: Cover the basics, then find extra

Pay every minimum, keep a small emergency cushion, then find extra: a canceled subscription, a spending challenge, an overtime shift, a side gig. Point all of it at the one target debt. When that’s gone, roll its whole payment into the next.

Step 4: Stop adding to it

Take the cards out of your wallet and phone. You don’t have to cut them up, but make them hard to use while you dig out.

Step 5: Keep going when it’s slow

The middle is the hardest part. Track progress monthly, celebrate each debt you close, and make a progress picture if it helps. Slow progress is still progress. One payment at a time.

Not financial advice. These calculators are educational estimates with no guarantees. Taxes and interest are simplified; check big decisions with a qualified professional.

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