

# DEBT

# TIPS



Should YOU be worried about debt? Visit the FSA's website and use their interactive debt test. It's quick and easy and will give you some useful tips in less than 10 minutes.

Access the [Debt test : FSA money made clear](#)

- Remember that expert help is available. Several organisations offer a free service, either face to face or by phone.
- Try National Debtline [www.nationaldebtline.co.uk](http://www.nationaldebtline.co.uk) (provides a free confidential and independent service)
- Citizens Advice Bureaux [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)
- The consumer credit counselling service [CCCS Debt Remedy](#) can help you find a solution with their debt remedy service.
- Don't forget DirectGov, for information about tax credits and benefits that you might be entitled to. [www.directgov.uk/moneytaxandbenefits/fs/en](http://www.directgov.uk/moneytaxandbenefits/fs/en).

## Don't think you need help?

Here are some tips that might help you.

1. If you already have debts, work out the priority in which you should repay them.
2. If you can't afford to pay everything at one time then you need to make a list of the most important debts that need to be paid off first.

3. If you are having trouble meeting your bill payments, contact the organisation concerned and tell them you have a problem, why you have it, and make a proposal to pay what you can when you can.

4. Use your budgeting to try cutting back on non-essential items.

5. What can you do without to help you get back on track? Can you save money by switching services such as phones, electricity, gas, mobile phone etc to new suppliers?

6. Think of ways you can improve your income – the more you earn, the easier it will be to repay debt. For example :

- Ask for a pay rise.
- Take in a lodger
- Grow your skills
- Do overtime
- Sell some of your things that you no longer need



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