This download covers six areas to review right now. Each one takes just a few minutes. Together, they can make a real difference by December.

📋 Work through each section below. Check the boxes, jot down your numbers, and note one action you will take this week.

1. **Know Your Net Worth**

Your net worth is the clearest picture of where you stand financially. It is simply what you own minus what you owe.

Assets — what you own

Savings, checking accounts, retirement accounts, home value, car value.

Liabilities — what you owe

Mortgage, car loan, credit card balances, student loans, medical bills.

Assets − Liabilities = Net Worth

A positive number means you own more than you owe. A negative number is a starting point, not a life sentence.

Calculate your net worth today. Write down what you own. Write down what you owe. Subtract. That is your number.

Compare it to January. Did it go up or down? Even a small increase means you are moving in the right direction.

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2. **Review Your Budget**

A budget is simply a plan for your money. It tells your dollars where to go before the month starts instead of wondering where they went at the end.

Every budget has four parts:

1. Income   2. Fixed Expenses   3. Variable Expenses   4. Savings

Income is your take-home pay. Fixed expenses stay the same every month: rent, car payment. Variable expenses change, groceries, gas, and dining out. Savings is what you set aside before spending.

Important: Always budget using your net pay, what hits your bank account after taxes not your gross salary.

Look at where your money actually went this month. Bank app, credit card statement, or a simple notebook, just look at the numbers honestly.

Find one expense to cut or reduce. Even $25 or $50 freed up each month adds up to $150–$300 by year-end.

Make sure savings appears in your budget as a line item. If it is not planned, it usually does not happen.

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3. Check Your Financial Goals

Goals give your budget a reason. Without them, money just disappears. Mid-year is the right time to see which goals are on track and which ones need attention.

Type	Timeframe	Examples
Short-term	Under 1 year	Start an emergency fund. Pay off one credit card balance.
Mid-term	1–5 years	Pay off your car. Build your credit score to 700+.
Long-term	5+ years	Save for a home down payment. Build retirement savings.

Quick formula: Goal amount ÷ months remaining = what to save per month. Example: $6,000 emergency fund by December = $1,000/month for 6 months.

Write down your top three financial goals for this year. If you have not written them down, do it now. Written goals are far more likely to happen.

Calculate how much you need to save per month to still hit each one. Adjust the goal if needed, a smaller goal you reach beats a big one you abandon.

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4. Check Your Emergency Fund

An emergency fund is not optional. It is what keeps a car repair or a medical bill from turning into credit card debt.

The target: 3 to 6 months of expenses

Keep it in a separate savings account, not your regular checking account, where it is easy to spend.

Example: If you spend $2,000/month, aim for $6,000–$12,000 saved. Start wherever you are. Even $500 makes a difference.

Compound interest means your savings grow on their own over time. The sooner you start, the more time your money has to work for you, even without adding more.

Check your emergency fund balance today. Is it where you want it to be at mid-year?

Set up or increase an automatic transfer to your savings. Even $25 per paycheck builds the habit. Automate it so you never have to think about it.

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5. Check Your Credit

Your credit score is between 300 and 850. It affects your ability to rent an apartment, get a loan, buy a car, and sometimes get a job. Higher is always better.

Your score is made up of five things:

35% — Payment history (pay on time, always)
30% — Amounts owed (keep balances under 30% of your limit)
15% — Length of credit history (keep old accounts open)
10% — New credit (do not open multiple cards at once)
10% — Credit mix (a variety of loans and cards helps)

Bad credit is not permanent. You can rebuild it but it takes consistent habits and time. No one can fix your credit except you.

Check your credit score for free at Credit Karma. No hard inquiry, it does not hurt your score to check it.

Pull your free credit report at annualcreditreport.com. Look for errors or accounts you do not recognize. Disputes are free to file.

Make sure every bill is set to auto-pay. One missed payment can drop your score significantly. Auto-pay eliminates that risk.

Things to avoid that hurt your credit most:

✗ **Only paying the minimum on credit cards.** You pay far more in interest, and it barely moves the balance.

✗ **Using a credit card for cash advances.** The fees and interest are much higher than regular purchases.

✗ **Spending over your credit limit.** It damages your score and adds penalty fees on top.

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6. **Protect Your Identity**

Identity theft can damage your credit without you ever knowing, until it is too late. A mid-year review is the right time to run a quick protection check.

Remember the word **SCAM**:

S — Be **Stingy** with your personal information. Do not share your Social Security number unless absolutely necessary.

C — **Check** your bank and credit card accounts regularly for charges you do not recognize.

A — **Ask** for your credit report at least once a year to catch fraud early.

M — **Maintain** careful records of your accounts and statements.

Review your bank and credit card statements this week. Look for any charge you do not remember making.

Shred any paper with your name, address, or account numbers. A cheap shredder is one of the best investments in your financial security.

Change your online banking password if it has been more than 3 months. Use a phrase, not just a word. Longer is stronger.

Resources to Keep Going

Khan Academy — Personal Finance

khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/personal-finance
Free short videos on budgeting, saving, credit, taxes, and investing. Clear and beginner-friendly.

Credit Karma

creditkarma.com
Check your credit score for free anytime. Track spending and monitor your accounts in one place.

Bankrate — Personal Finance

bankrate.com/personal-finance
Easy calculators and plain-language guides for loans, savings, and credit cards.

Intuit for Education — Personal Finance

intuit.com/solutions/education/learners
Free self-paced lessons on budgeting, credit, banking, and taxes — made by the creators of TurboTax.

AnnualCreditReport.com

annualcreditreport.com
Get your free credit report from Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion. Check for errors at least once a year.