

# credit card offers...

## Compare and Tear!

How many offers have you received recently in the mail promising an unbelievably low rate credit card with all sorts of bells and whistles? Remember this simple rule first and foremost: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Anyone can learn how to spot a really good credit card offer. You need only know to compare the disclosure information, “apples to apples.” Federal law requires that all disclosures follow the same format, making it easier for consumers to compare offers.

So the next time you receive an offer in the mail, check out the “Fed Box.” (See the example below.) See what happens to that great rate after the introductory period. See what



happens if your payments are late or if you don't spend enough. Make sure there's an interest-free grace period, too! A quick glance will let you know if it's really a better deal than the one you already have. If it isn't ...

**tear it up!**



### Sample “Fed Box” for a Typical Credit Union Credit Card

<b>Annual Percentage Rate</b>	Purchases and Cash Advances <b>12.9%</b>
<b>Grace Period for Purchases</b>	25 Days
<b>Balance Calculation Method for Purchases</b>	Average Daily Balance (including new purchases)
<b>Annual Fee</b>	\$10.00—Waived yearly if used four times per year
<b>Minimum Finance Charge</b>	None
<b>Transaction Fee for Purchases</b>	None
<b>Transaction Fee for Cash Advances</b>	None
<b>Over Credit Limit Fee</b>	\$15.00
<b>Late Payment Fee</b>	\$15.00 if not paid within 10 days of due date
<b>Return Check Fee</b>	\$20.00

**Card I**

**Card II**

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