

Debt Thermometer Instructions

Visit Bankrate.com/calculators/mortgages/loan-calculator.aspx to find the total amount you'll pay on your debt including interest. Calculate based on the time you think it'll take you to pay your debt.

Example: a \$10,000 loan at 6.55% paid off in 2 years (24 months) will accumulate a total of \$696.52 in interest. So your projected debt thermometer goal, or payoff amount, is \$10,696.52.

The longer lines are for writing amount increments but you can use the shorter ones too if you need the extra visualization. You can also print the middle page extra times to make the thermometer longer. The debt thermometer is flexible that way.

There are 18 long lines on the thermometer (don't count the lines at the very top of the two bottom pages. They're provided to make lining up the pages easier.) Divide your total loan amount by 17 (or one less than however many lines you're writing on.)

Example: \$10696.52 divided by 17 = \$629ish increments.

Label the top line with your total payoff amount and the bottom line \$0. Add increments along the thermometer til you fill them up. I'd suggest doing this on a scrap sheet of paper first in case you mess up (hi perfectionists!) You can also invert the numbers if you'd rather do a countdown to debt freedom.

You can use the traditional red or mix it up with a different color every month or every payment. Hang it up in your home, make it a piece of art, have fun with it! Paying off your debt is not the boring thing everyone makes it out to be. With this visual representation of how you're improving your life and finances you'll stay motivated to work hard and reach your goals. Good luck!





