

10 golden rules of investing

You've taken our video course, and now we're here to help you keep going. Investing can be tricky, so keep these rules in mind as you start your investing journey. Feel free to print, save or share these tips.

Adapted from Bankrate Senior Investing Reporter Jim Royal's "The 10 Golden Rules of Investing."

1. Never lose money

Consider an investment's potential, but don't forget about potential risks to make sure it's worth it.

6. Diversify your portfolio

Spread your investments around so if a few don't perform well, you still have others you can count on.

2. Think like an owner

Stocks are a fractional ownership. To be an investor, you need to do research and understand how the business could perform in the future.

7. Avoid timing the market

Investors make more money leaving their investments in the market than they do trying to invest in the right things at the right times.

3. Stick to your process

Historically, the stock market has gone back up after going down.

8. Understand your investments

If you're buying a stock, you need to know why and when the stock is likely to profit. The same goes when purchasing funds or annuities.

4. Buy when everyone is fearful

Investors often sell when the market is down, but this is when you can find bargains on stocks.

9. Regularly review your plan

Keep an eye on your investing plan to make sure it still fits your needs. You can do this whenever you check your accounts for tax purposes.

5. Stay disciplined

As long as you're able to follow your budget, keeping your money in the market will make you more in the long term.

10. Have an emergency fund

An emergency fund is important. It can tide you over during a rough time and help you stay in the investing game longer.