# **5** Simple Steps to Improve **Cash Flow for Your SME**

Cash flow is the lifeblood of any small or medium-sized business. Without it, even the most profitable companies can struggle to stay afloat. Use this checklist to ensure your cash flow is healthy and sustainable, avoiding common pitfalls that hinder business growth.

## **Step 1: Assess Your Current Cash Flow**

- Action: Review your most recent cash flow statement.
- Tip: Identify whether you have consistent inflows and outflows. Track all sources of

income and expenses to see if there are patterns that could be optimized.

## **Step 2: Streamline Your Invoicing Process**

- Action: Ensure invoices are sent promptly, and payment terms are clear.
- **Tip**: Offer incentives for early payments and penalties for late ones. Automate reminders for overdue payments to improve your cash flow.

### **Step 3: Tighten Credit Terms with Customers**

- Action: Evaluate the credit terms you extend to clients.
- **Tip**: Consider reducing credit limits or shortening the payment period for high-risk clients to improve cash inflow.

#### **Step 4: Cut Unnecessary Expenses**

- Action: Review monthly and yearly expenses to identify areas to reduce costs.
- **Tip**: Negotiate with suppliers for better rates or switch to more cost-effective

options. Eliminate non-essential services that don't add value.

## **Step 5: Build a Cash Reserve**

- Action: Start saving a portion of your profits to create a buffer for lean periods.
- Tip: Aim to build at least 3-6 months' worth of operating expenses as a reserve. Set this as a goal to maintain financial stability.

By following these simple steps, you can take control of your cash flow and strengthen your business's financial health. If you need expert guidance or help developing a more comprehensive liquidity plan, feel free to reach out!