

Mark Cuban's Guide to Getting Rich (continued)

Save your money. Save as much money as you possibly can. Every penny you can. Instead of coffee, drink water.

Instead of going to McDonald's, eat Mac and Cheese. Cut up your credit cards. **If you use a credit card, you don't want to be rich.**

The first step to getting rich, requires discipline. If you really want to be rich, you need to find the discipline. Can you?

If you can, you will quickly find that the greatest rate of return you will earn is on your own personal spending. Being a smart shopper is the first step to getting rich.

Yeah you have to give things up and that doesn't work for everyone, particularly if you have a family. That is reality. But whatever you can save, save it. As much as you possibly can.

Then put it in six-month CDs in the bank.



Billionaire Mark Cuban is one of the sharks on ABC's "Shark Tank." "Shark Tank"/ABC

The first step to getting rich is having cash available. You aren't saving for retirement.

“The first step to getting rich is having cash available.” (great advice)

You are saving for the moment you need cash. Buy and hold is a sucker's game for you.

This market is a perfect example. Right at the very moment when cash creates unbelievable opportunity, those who followed the buy and hold strategy have no cash.

They can't or won't sell into markets this low — that kills the entire point of buy and hold.

Those who have put their money in CDs sleep well at night and definitely have more money today than they did yesterday.

CDs, high yielding savings account and treasury bonds are a few suggestions.

And because they are smart, disciplined shoppers, their personal rate of inflation is within their means. Cash is king for those wanting to get rich.

The second rule for getting rich is getting smart.

Investing your time in yourself and becoming knowledgeable about the business of something you really love to do.

It doesn't matter what it is. Whatever your hobbies, interests, and passions are. Find the one you love the best and *get a job* in the business that supports it.

It could be as a clerk, a salesperson, whatever you can find. You have to start learning the business somewhere.

Instead of paying to go to school somewhere, you are getting paid to learn.

It may not be the perfect job, but there is no perfect path to getting rich.

Before or after work and on weekends — every single day — read everything there is to read about the business.

Go to trade shows, read the trade magazines, and spend a lot of time talking to the people you do business with about their business and the people they buy from.

This is not a short-term project. We aren't talking days. We aren't talking months. We are talking years. Lots of years, and maybe decades. I didn't say this was a get rich quick scheme. This is a get rich path.



There is no perfect path to getting rich. Pedro Ribeiro Simões / Flickr

Now you wait for times of uncertainty and change in your business. The time will come.

It may come quickly — it may take years and years. But it will come. The nature of our country's business infrastructure is that it is destined to be boom and bust. Booms are when the smart people sell.

Busts are when rich people started on their path to wealth.

You will know when that time is here for you because you will know your business inside and out. You will be ready because you will have been saving up for this moment in time.

With all the change and uncertainty in the financial markets, there are people right now making more money than they ever dreamed of.

They are the ones who have been living the real estate market and the financing behind it and understanding what actually was going on.

They are the one who understood the complexities of the credit markets. When everyone was following the crowd, they kept on saving their money and avoiding the temptation of groupthink.

Boom and busts happen to every industry. The question is whether you have the discipline to be ready when it happens for you.

If you do, you will find out what it feels like to get lucky.