BORROWING MONEY TO BUY SECURITIES (LEVERAGING)
Risk Disclosure

Risks of Borrowing for Purchasing Investments

Mutual fund units and other securities may be purchased using available cash, or a combination of cash and borrowed money. If cash is used to pay for the purchase in full, the percentage gain or loss will equal the percentage increase or decrease in the value of the securities. The purchase of securities using borrowed money magnifies the gain or loss on the cash invested. This effect is called leveraging.

For example, if $100,000 of mutual fund units are purchased and paid for with $25,000 from available cash and $ 75,000 from borrowings, and the value of the fund units declines by 10% to $90,000, your equity interest (the difference between the value of the securities and the amount borrowed) has declined by 40%, i.e. from $25,000 to $15,000.

It is important that an investor proposing to borrow for the purchase of securities be aware that a purchase with borrowed monies involves greater risk than a purchase using cash resources only. To what extent a purchase using borrowed monies involves undue risk is a determination to be made by each purchaser and will vary depending on the circumstances of the purchaser and the securities purchased.

Financial Resources Required for Investments Purchased with Borrowed Funds

It is also important that the investor be aware of the terms of a loan secured by securities. The lender may require that the amount outstanding on the loan not rise above an agreed percentage of the market value of the securities. Should this occur, the borrower must pay down the loan or sell the securities so as to return the loan to the agreed percentage relationship. In our example above, the lender may require that the loan not exceed 75% of the market value of the mutual fund units. On a decline of value of the units to $90,000 the borrower must reduce the loan to $67,500 (75% of $90,000). If the borrower does not have cash available, the borrower must sell units at a loss to provide money to reduce the loan. Money is, of course, also required to pay interest on the loan. Under these circumstances, investors who use borrowed funds to purchase their investment are advised to have adequate financial resources available both to pay interest and also to reduce the loan if the borrowing arrangements require such a payment.