

100 small ways



to save

BIG

Have more for the things you want

courtesy of





FAMILY CREDIT
MANAGEMENT.

Save for your future:

Small steps go a long way

Every day you make many decisions about how to spend your money. Whether you're grocery shopping, driving to work, paying bills or just watching TV, there are small things you can do to spend less. This booklet has 100 ways to help you start saving money today!

When you save money on everyday expenses, you'll be able to buy things that really matter to you. Tips with  or  symbols can help you save Big – think of all the better uses for that money!

Think carefully about each tip and decide if it's something you can commit to doing. Check the corresponding box and remember that for every "Will do" box you check, you can save real dollars – but you have to stick with it!

If you save \$5 every day, you'll have over \$1800 in a year. Think of what you could do with that money.



Utilities: Plug into savings

Will do
 Won't do
 Did it
 Doesn't apply

Review your phone bill. Cancel home phone or added services you don't need or use (Caller ID, three-way calling, call waiting).

If you have a landline phone disconnect it or cancel the long distance and use your cell phone.

Replace your light bulbs with compact florescent (CFL) bulbs.

Install a programmable thermostat for heat and air – lower your home's temperature when you are away or sleeping to save big money.



Use exhaust and/or ceiling fans for comfort rather than air conditioning.



Review all cell phone, home phone, and cable services/contracts and inquire about better deals. They do exist!

Replace your showerhead with a low-flow model and save 30% on your hot water bill.

Keep blinds and shades closed in the summer to avoid high cooling costs and open in the winter to keep heating costs low.

Unplug phone chargers and computers when you aren't using them.

Let your hair air dry after showering rather than using a hair dryer.

Install a hot water heater blanket and reduce its temperature by 20%.

Keep lamps and televisions away from thermostats as this will give an inaccurate reading, forcing your air conditioner to run more than necessary.

Using glass cookware will allow you to reduce your oven temperature by 25 degrees, saving you on energy costs.

Avoid over-packing your refrigerator and freezer. This causes your fridge to work harder to keep everything cold, using more energy.

Avoid using your oven in the summer. This heats up your home and causes your air conditioner to use more energy to cool it back down. Instead, use a crock pot, outdoor grill, or electric skillet.

+ =

Will do Did it

Home Management: Savings start at home



Will do



Won't do



Did it



Doesn't apply

Avoid buying dry-clean-only clothes.

Buy a steamer. Wash and steam dress shirts instead of dry cleaning.

Hang dry clothes when possible.

Look for used clothes at thrift stores or on eBay, especially for kids.



Wash clothes in cold water. 85% of the energy used by your washing machine is from warming the water.

Wash your own car.

Always compare prices online for large purchases. You may save money and sales tax.



Change your furnace filter regularly. Keep a log to help you remember.

Buy clothing off-season at clearance prices.

Buy classic clothing that will not feel outdated next year. Buy one trendy, inexpensive accessory to feel current if you must.

Call your mortgage company and find out how to cancel private mortgage insurance.



Be sure you have filed for your homeowner's exemption or senior citizen exception for real estate taxes.

Check with your lender to see if you can make half of your mortgage payment every two weeks – it saves on interest. BUT, do not pay a service to do this for you. You can do this for free!

Make an effort to do work yourself that you would usually hire out (i.e. lawn work, home repairs, painting, cleaning, etc).

Close off unused rooms in your home to save on heating and cooling costs.

Check all the faucets in your home for drips. These little leaks can add surprising amounts to your water bill.

Only use your dishwasher when it is full. Setting your dishes to "air dry" will also save on energy costs.

You probably have many items around your house you would return if you could. Selling these items on eBay can be a great way to earn some extra money while ridding your home of clutter.



Will do

+

Did it

=

Entertainment: FREE time

Will do
 Won't do
 Did it
 Doesn't apply

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Will do + Did it =

Get books and DVD's from the library instead of purchasing or renting.

Stop newspaper subscriptions. Most newspapers can be read online for free. Do buy the Sunday newspaper for coupons for things you normally buy.

Stop magazine subscriptions. Read magazines at libraries.

Search for online coupons. They can be found for everything from amusement parks to restaurants and grocery stores.



Only go to a discount movie or matinee.

Eat before you go to the movies or a sporting event to avoid buying expensive snacks at concession stands.

Search the internet for free events in your area. Many museums, plays and other cultural events will have a free or discounted day.

Cancel cable/satellite TV or drop to basic only.



Slow down your internet usage or use the internet at the library for free.

If you enjoy going out to the movies, buy pre-paid tickets in bulk for a discount.

What will you do with your savings?



Transportation:

Deals on wheels

Will do
 Won't do
 Did it
 Doesn't apply

\$1000+

Use public transportation or car pool.

Drive the speed limit and save on both speeding fines and gasoline.

Do basic car repairs yourself (wipers, light bulbs, car washes).

Properly inflate your car tires to save on gas mileage.

Review auto insurance and drop collision/comprehensive coverage on older vehicles.

Remove unneeded services from auto insurance (roadside assistance, car rental coverage, towing coverage).

Review all insurance policies and get competitive rates.

Avoid driving during rush hour.

Park in the shade. This will reduce your need for A/C when you drive.

If your car is going to idle for more than 10 or 15 seconds, turn it off. It will conserve gas and is actually better for your engine.

Ride a bicycle or use public transportation whenever possible.

Will do
 +
 Did it
 =

If you put \$1800 in a savings account every year, you'll have almost \$10,000 in five years.



Money Management: Take it to the bank

Will do
 Won't do
 Did it
 Doesn't apply

If you ever pay ATM fees, switch to a bank with more local ATMs to avoid foreign ATM fees.

Move your savings account to a higher interest online account.

Raise the deductible on your homeowner and auto insurance.



Use online banking to pay bills and avoid postage, cost of checks, envelopes, and possible late fees.

If your bank charges fees, get a free checking account with a bank where no fees are charged.

Watch credit card statements closely for added fees and increasing interest rates. Prioritize your debt repayment, paying the highest interest first.

Never make a purchase over \$50 without shopping around.

Never make an impulse purchase of more than \$10. Give yourself a cooling-off period to think about it.

Call creditors to request reduced interest rates on credit cards.

Cancel credit card insurance or credit protection plans.

Pay with cash (research shows we spend more when we use plastic). If you must use a card, use one with rewards. (Only if you can pay it in full each month)

Enroll in your company 401(k). If they have a matching program, you're throwing away free money by not using it.



Review your credit report. You may find inaccurate information that is causing you to pay higher interest rates or insurance premiums. This is also an important measure to guard against identity theft.

Track your monthly spending. Pay close attention to areas that you are being nicked and dimed and work to reduce or eliminate those items. Awareness is the first step towards financial control!

Pay bills on time and avoid costly late fees.

Call 1-800-FREE-411 for free directory assistance. You may have to listen to a recorded advertisement before receiving service.

_____ + _____ =

Will do Did it

How did you do?

Add up the number of “Will do” and “Did it” boxes you checked at the bottom of each page. Then add those totals together for your Grand Total of _____.

Here's what your number means:

80-100: Great job! You really understand the importance of saving. If you stick to it, you'll have tons of money to spend on things that really matter to you.

60-79: Good job – you should be proud of yourself. Focus on the tips you've committed to and watch how much you save. Enjoy your extra money and remember, there's more if you'll follow the other tips.

40-59: You'll save a nice amount, but you should try harder if you're serious about saving. Didn't your parents tell you that money doesn't grow on trees?


0-39: Oh, come on, you can do better than that! You worked hard to earn your money – don't throw it away!

Make a commitment to yourself!

I will set up an online savings account and deposit \$ _____ every month.

You can do it!

But if you need motivation...



Place a picture here
of what you will do
with your savings.

(You know - the things you want - like a vacation,
new shoes, a guitar, freedom from debt,
a down payment on a house or car,
college for your kids, etc.)

**Keep and review this
booklet frequently.**

“Successful money management is having your money do for you what you want it to do.”

- Michael J. McAuliffe, President of Family Credit Management

For more great ways to save, visit:

www.stopthinksave.org
www.familycredit.org

For the following free educational materials, please visit our website or call 800-994-3328:

My Spending Plan
My Spending Plan for Christians
Understanding Your Credit Score
Identity Theft
Cease and Desist
Financing Your College Education
Debt Management Program
Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act
Biblical Principles of Tithing
Stop.Think.Save! kit



The goal of this publication is to provide financial education and ideas for consumers to consider. The contents may address legal issues, but it should not be treated as legal advice. Such advice can only be properly given by qualified professionals who are fully aware of the reader's individual circumstances. All information is deemed accurate and reliable at time of printing. We are not responsible for inaccurate information. We are not a loan company. We are a licensed debt management service provider. 07/17/08