

Tips to Keep on Budget During the Holidays

Make a List and Check it Twice

Spread the joy of giving without the horror of going over budget.

1. Decide on the amount of money you can spend during the holidays, and stick to your budget. Create a spending plan to help.
2. Shop around for the best price. Watch sales or check out second-hand stores.
3. Keep track of your spending, and check your budget after each shopping day.



Create Your Own At-Home Restaurant

Many holiday gatherings involve eating out at restaurants. Try bringing your favourite restaurant to your home.

1. Find items around your house or make decorations to fit the theme of your restaurant.
2. Have each of your friends bring a dish to share the cost of the meal.
3. After dinner, add up your savings and celebrate.

Get Crafty

Make homemade gifts to spread the joy and cut down on costs. Here's an idea: to make hot chocolate mix, stir these ingredients together and spoon them into jars.

- 3 cups of dry milk powder
- 3/4 cup of white sugar
- 1/2 cup of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- Secret ingredient: a pinch of cayenne pepper!



Gift Exchange

Have lots of family and friends to buy gifts for? Draw names for gift giving.

1. Write down the names of your family and friends, and have everyone draw a name.
2. Each person will buy a gift for the person whose name they pulled. Place a dollar limit for everyone, and keep within budget.
3. Celebrate by unwrapping the gifts together, and try to guess who got each other the gifts.

Continue to Pay Yourself First

You work hard for your money; you deserve to give yourself the gift of savings. Holidays mean extra expenses, but do not forget to pay yourself first. Each paycheque, put some money in your savings. Saving should be a part your holiday budget, too!

