

There are a lot of ways to reduce your spending, some are easy and some are little more involved. Take a look at the list below and check the items that apply to you. Estimate your savings and then tally up the list. Finding ways to spend less, may help you borrow less, so in the future you can payback less.



Tally your savings below

- Review your car insurance deductible. Increasing your deductible from \$250 to \$1,000 decreases the premium you pay each month.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$300 per year**

- Kick the nicotine habit. Good for your lungs – good for your wallet. By cutting out 3 packs of cigarettes per week (a pack costs about \$4 each), you can help your health and also save a lot of money.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$600 per year**

- Brown bag it. Bringing your lunch from home instead of eating fast food can save about \$60 per month.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$700 per year**

- Negotiate your rate. Interest rates on your credit cards can be bargained down. If you can cut your interest from 18% to 10% on a \$5,000 balance, you will appreciate your bartering skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$400 per year**

- Put your library card to good use. Borrowing books and DVDs from the local library will save you not only the cost of renting and buying (average of \$25 per household), but also the late fees.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$300 per year**

- Lose the latte. Skip your daily visit to the coffee shop (average of \$4 per visit), brew your coffee at home and filter your funds.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$1,000 per year**

- Buy in bulk and avoid the vending machine. Maybe coffee isn't your thing – you like to keep hydrated a different way (\$1.50 per vending machine visit). Buy your refreshments in bulk and save big.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$500 per year**

- Do you really have to have your MTV? By cutting cable from your monthly bills (roughly \$60 per month), you will be singing a cheaper tune.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$700 per year**



- Go vintage! Buy and sell your used clothes at consignment shops and save over \$25 a month.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$300 per year**

- Cut coupons. Maybe it seems too simple but coupons are there for a reason. Don't get a weekly paper? You can find many coupons online. By using coupons, you can trim an average of \$20 from every grocery store visit.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$500 per year (assuming 2 visits a month)**

- Hold out on haircuts. A haircut runs about \$30 per visit, so waiting 8 weeks for a trim instead of 6 weeks is just another easy way to trim your expenses.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$100 per year**

- The ATM fees get you every time. Find which ATMs don't charge you the \$2 convenience fee and only use those machines.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$100 per year (considering 1 visit a week)**

- Get a roommate. Having someone to split rent, utilities and even groceries with can save you \$200 to \$600 per month.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$4,800 per year**

- Consider your location. Whether renting or owning, housing costs often vary depending on where you live. By doing a little homework before you sign on the dotted line, you can save \$100 per month.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$1,200 per year**

- Buy used. Textbooks are only with you for a short time – try buying used textbooks online rather than a new textbook at the bookstore. You could get the very same textbook for half the price.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$500 per year**

- Need your news fix? Instead of paying for a pricey subscription, check out your favorite news sources online. Some newspaper subscriptions can cost over \$150 per year and that's not including your impulse magazine purchases.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Save \$200 per year**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total possible yearly savings**

