SmartDollar Money Tips

# SmartDollar Money Tip:

# Want to save money on your groceries? Use cash.

The best way to stick to a lower food budget is to pay with cash. When you enter the grocery store with cash in hand, you know exactly how much you can spend. Plus, you’ll stick to the meat-and-potatoes necessities of your budget rather than your ice-cream-and-cookies impulse buys.

If you still find you’re eating high on the hog at the beginning of the month but scraping by on tuna fish by the end, make a cash run every two weeks instead of every month. This way, you’ll have a better picture of how much you can actually afford to spend each week, versus for the entire month.

# SmartDollar Money Tip:

# Plan your vacation around off days and save big!

Most people leave for vacation on Friday, stay a week, and return on Sunday. The travel industry knows that, which is why you pay more on certain days and months.

Instead of that, **alter your timeline and get a deal.** Purchase plane tickets to fly out on Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday to take advantage of lower prices. Also, check to see when condo rental prices are lowest and plan your vacation times around those if possible. Try to get a discount by price-matching your favorite locations. Those reduced travel expenses make the getaway extra sweet.

# SmartDollar Money Tip:

# Dump your debt by mastering the debt snowball.

It’s time to get motivated about dumping your debt**.** Once you live debt free, you’ll never want to go back! If you have multiple debts, the debt snowball is an awesome way to knock them out one by one.**List out your debts, one by one, from smallest to largest.** Don’t worry about interest rates. This is a behavior issue, not a math issue.

Now, put as much money as you can toward the smallest debt while paying the minimum on the others. Once the smallest one is paid off, **take all of the money you put toward it each month and add that to the minimum payment on the next smallest debt.**Keep at this until you work your way through all of your debts.

Paying off the smallest debts first might not seem that important,**but those early wins help you stay positive and motivated to knock out all your debt.**