

# Money Matters

November 2009: Holiday Spending Tips

*When it comes to building your future...Money Matters!*



## DID YOU KNOW?

Learn how to create a budget:

<https://secure.financialfinesse.com/go/3760>

Check out "21 Smart Spending and Money Saving Tips for the Holidays" here:

<http://www.credit.org/resources/Articles/Archive/96.html>

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## Holiday Spending Tips

During the holidays, it's sometimes hard to resist overindulging with an extra helping at the dinner table, those desserts that seem too enticing to pass up, and even spending more than we can afford. One way to avoid overindulging with your holiday spending is by setting a budget.

If you are shopping for gifts, make a list of each person that you will be shopping for, and set specific guidelines or limits on the amount that you will spend for each person on your list. By sticking to your list, you won't spend extra money on items for yourself, or items that you didn't intend as part of your shopping. Self discipline can be hard when spending your entire day passing through stores with door-buster sales, so you can also consider leaving the credit cards at home and paying with cash so that it will be more difficult to exceed your budget.

A holiday budget doesn't only apply to buying gifts. Maybe you like to host or attend parties, enjoy holiday activities with the family, or you do more cooking and baking during the holidays. If so, then set a budget for these areas as well. Maybe you can find some other areas to cut back in, such as going to the movies or dining out, in order to make up for the extra time and money you would like to spend on your favorite holiday traditions.

Remember that the most thoughtful gifts and most memorable holiday celebrations don't have to cost a lot. Maybe this year you will discover the enjoyment of making gifts for some of your friends or family, or finding new and memorable holiday traditions to enjoy without putting a strain on your wallet.



## Helping You Achieve What Matters Most

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