



Making Your Spending Plan Work

1. Keep a written list of your expenses handy.
You may want to post it on your refrigerator or keep it with a calendar. This makes it easy to check on the amounts you want to spend.
2. Use a "money management" calendar.
A calendar can be used to remind you when bills are due. Write on the calendar the due dates of bills. Then you can plan to have some money on those dates to pay the bills. Draw an X across the note when you have paid the bill.
3. Use a system for keeping track of expenses.
Add up your expenses monthly. This way you can keep track of your spending to make sure your money goes where you want it to go.
4. Save important receipts such as phone, gas, and electric bills that have been paid.
You may want to clip or staple these together and store them in a box or drawer. Other receipts can be saved just in case you need to return an item to the store.
5. Try to get the whole family involved.
Have the children help add up the receipts. They can write due dates on the calendar or put on stickers to remind you of bills to be paid.
6. Find a safe place to keep money.
Having cash in the house is a great temptation. It's easy for family members to "borrow" from the bill paying money. You may need to keep money in a locked drawer or on a high shelf out of sight. Think about using a bank to store money for taxes, insurance payments, etc.
7. Talk to your creditors.
If you can't pay a bill, call the company and explain the problem. They may be able to work out a payment plan for you. Always try to pay at least a part of all bills each month.

8. **Update your spending plan.**

If you're spending more or less money than you had planned, you will need to change the amounts you allowed in the different categories. You will also need to change your plan when your income changes.

9. **Be patient.**

Good results take time – it may be several months before you see any savings. Good luck with your plans!! You are now in control.

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