

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HOW TO STRETCH YOUR BUDGET IN A SEASON OF INFLATION

You don't have to break the bank to celebrate the holidays in style—even in this season of inflation. Prices may be higher on everything from food to gifts to decorations, but there are still plenty of opportunities to eke out extra savings.

Multiple surveys have found that inflation is not only chilling people's spending, it's also prompting shoppers to search for better deals and creative ways to reduce their bills.¹ Here are some strategies you can use to boost your holiday budget by trimming household expenses:



1 HUNT FOR DEALS ON GROCERIES

You no longer have to clip your way through paper flyers to snag a bargain. Coupon aggregation sites, like Coupons.com, and shopping apps—such as Checkout 51 and Ibotta—make it easy to score discounts and cash back on a variety of purchases, including groceries.

2 PREP YOUR HOME FOR HOLIDAY GUESTS WITH PRE-OWNED FINDS

If you're expecting company this year and would like to add some festive flair to your home, start by searching for secondhand finds. Thrifting is back in vogue: A recent study found that the “recommerce” market grew almost 15% last year, which was twice the pace of general retail.²

3 FORGO MAJOR RENOVATIONS IN FAVOR OF DIY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Consider winter-worthy endeavors, like a backyard fire pit. Just be sure to stick to DIY projects that you know you can do a quality job on. When in doubt, reach out for a free assessment to find out how your renovations could impact your home's value.

4 INVEST IN HOME MAINTENANCE PROJECTS THAT CUT YOUR UTILITY BILLS

According to the EPA, 9 out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated.³ Luckily, there are plenty of energy-saving insulation projects that you can complete in just a few days. Be sure to check with us about any rebates or incentives that may be available before getting started on a project.

5 USE EXPENSE TRACKING TO BOOST YOUR HOLIDAY BUDGET

If your monthly budget is tight, you may need to make some adjustments to free up cash for holiday expenses. Use this worksheet as a template that you can personalize to your needs.

	Typical	Adjusted	Difference (+/-)
HOUSING			
Mortgage/taxes/insurance or Rent			
Utilities (electricity, water, gas, trash)			
Phone, internet, cable			
Home maintenance and repairs			
FOOD			
Groceries			
Restaurants			
TRANSPORTATION			
Car payment/insurance			
Gas, maintenance, repairs			
OTHER			
Health insurance			
Clothing and personal care			
Childcare			
Entertainment			
Charitable contributions			
Savings, retirement, college fund			
INCOME			
Salary/wages			
Tips and other			
MONTHLY TOTALS			
Total Adjusted Income			
Total Adjusted Expenses			-
EXTRA SAVINGS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY BUDGET			

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Sources: 1. Retail Dive 2. CNBC 3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Whether you want to find lower-cost alternatives for home renovations, maintenance, or services, we are happy to provide our insights and referrals. And if you're saving up to buy a new home, we can help with that, too. Reach out to schedule a free consultation, and we can fill you in on the exciting programs and incentives we're seeing that help make homeownership more affordable.

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