

# Smart Shopping

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –  
[www.cheapskates.com.au](http://www.cheapskates.com.au)*

We all want to get our money's worth when we buy something, especially now. Some of these ideas may take a little extra time at first but once they become a habit the savings quickly add up.

## **At the Supermarket**

\*Before you leave home, make a list of what you need. Buy on what is on the list. Plan meals around what you have on hand and then what is on sale each week. Buy fruit and veggies that are in season and locally grown.

\* Know your prices. Keep your price book up to date and jot the prices next to the items on your shopping list. Compare shelf prices to your list price and look for cheaper alternatives if necessary.

\* Shop around. Go to more than one store to pick up the best bargains.

\* Don't be afraid to try generics. If it's a new product, try it once. If it's good then you can add it to your usual brands, if you don't like it you can just go back to your regular brand.

\* Don't shop every day. Try to shop at the most once a week, once a fortnight is better. Less temptation = less impulse buys and more savings.

## **Unit Pricing – the Magic Way to Find the True Cost**

Knowing how to work out the unit price of items can save you a lot of money. Carry a small calculator with you or better still the Cheapskates How Much Does It Cost calculator to work out the unit price of goods. To do this divide the cost of each item by the number of grams, kilos, milliliters or litres. This will give you the cost per unit and you can compare them to

find the cheapest product. In some cases, bigger is not always cheaper.

## **Quality Shopping**

When considering the cost of an item, take into account how long it will last and how many uses you will get out of it.

\* For example a pair of runners for \$60 might last twelve months while another, cheaper pair at \$35 will only last nine months. At first glance it would seem that the more expensive shoe is better value because it lasts longer. In reality the cheaper shoe is better value. Here's how to work it out: calculate the cost per month i.e. divide \$60 by 12 = \$5 per month, while \$35 divided by 9 months = \$4 per month.

The cheaper shoe is better value per wear. \* Look for quality in construction: zippers, buttons and button holes, seams and hems should be checked in clothing to make sure they item will stand up to being worn.

\* Keep track of how long things last and their original prices so you can then compare when it's time to replace them.

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Showing you how to save money, time  
and energy and still have fun!  
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