

The Lowdown on Aldi

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskates.com.au*

Aldi is a bare bones, no frills supermarket that stocks good quality, basic household groceries at rock bottom prices. By making Aldi the first stop when grocery shopping you can cut your grocery bill by 40% – 60% without losing quality.

You'll find that most of the products on the shelves are Aldi's own brands. They are excellent quality and value for money and over 90% of the food items stocked are Australian made, another great plus. You'll find that 100% of the meat is Australian, 97% of the fruit and veg and 95% of the dairy items stocked are all Australian made.

There are a few rules to follow that keep their prices low:

They accept only cash, debit or credit cards (there is a fee for using credit).

You have to pay a \$1 (or some of the stores now have trolleys that accept \$2 coins as well) deposit to get a shopping trolley. There is a little machine on the trolley that you put your coin in. When you return your trolley, it gives you the coin back. This keeps prices down because they don't have to pay someone to get baskets. To make life easier I have a \$1 coin just for this purpose that lives in the ashtray of the car.

You can buy a little key ring trolley token (99c at the checkout) that will work to unlock a trolley for you, saving you from having to keep a \$1 or \$2 coin handy for shopping.

You pack your own groceries. Bring your own bags. Put all your extra plastic bags in an empty tissue box and bring it with you if you like your shopping in plastic bags.

You can also use the boxes they have there for free. If they don't have any boxes available and you forget your bags, they charge \$.15 per bag (for the plastic ones) for you to buy them.

Green bags, the environmentally friendly shopping bags, can also be bought at the checkout, although these days they come in a myriad of colours (yellow, blue, red, pink and of course green). These bags cost 99c each.

Don't forget to bring an insulated bag for your fridge and freezer groceries, especially in the summer.

Be prepared. The checkouts are extra long, so you can unload your trolley before your order begins to be processed. The checkers check you out very fast, and you need to be ready to catch your groceries and load them into your trolley. Don't try to pack at the checkout – you won't have time. There are lovely big packing benches for you to use, just behind the checkouts.

Aldi has a no questions asked, money back guarantee and they stick by it. If you are not happy with any product you buy at an Aldi store just return it to the store, along with your receipt, for a full refund.

You can create your shopping list and know just how much it will cost you before you leave home by using the Aldi Shopping List tool on their website (www.aldi.com.au). You won't be caught out at the register, you won't go over budget and by using a shopping list you won't forget something and have to do another trip to the supermarket.

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time and energy and still have fun!
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