

How to Have a Cash Christmas

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

Own your Christmas this year and really enjoy it. A few simple tips will have your Christmas budget under control and you won't be paying for it this time next year.



Cheapskate's Top Tips for a Cash Christmas

1. Make a budget.
2. Start saving now - shop sales and lay-by, time is on your side.
3. Track your Christmas spending, just as you do regular spending. Keep track of how much you spend on presents, decorations, postage, food, clothes, parties etc.
4. Also the track savings i.e if you budget \$10 for a gift, and find on sale for \$8, that's a \$2 saving. Put that money straight into your Emergency Fund.
5. Use cash - make it a priority to use cash for all your Christmas spending. Go to the ATM and make a cash withdrawal, don't use the credit card or eftpos, it's too easy to lose track of what you are spending. Having cash, you see exactly how much you've spent and how much you have left to spend. When it's gone, it's gone.
6. As you collect gifts, wrap and label them immediately. Then make a note on your gift list so you know where you've stashed it and mark it as finished.

DIY Christmas Savings Plan

Each week when I go grocery shopping I purchase a gift voucher to the value of \$10. At Christmas I cash in all my vouchers to purchase all the food I need to see my family over the holidays. - Contributed by Lorna, Fairview Park



DIY Lay-by

Start now with your own lay-by Christmas shopping. Firstly, make a list of the Christmas purchases you wish to make, then go shopping but do not take your purchases to the checkout. Instead, record the price. Once you are done

"shopping," step away from the store. Go home. Determine the total cost. Divide by the number of weeks you have remaining until you need to have this item. Now set up a safe place where you can make your weekly payments. Once you reach your "redemption" date, go buy the stuff. It is a clever concept, it's called saving first, spending later. Delayed gratification. Pay as you go. And another bonus is that come Christmas time, when stores are vying for customers, sales will be on and there will additional savings to be made.

Contributed by Sandra, Erskine Park

Stocking Fillers

To fill the kid's Christmas stockings, raid the opportunity shops. Books, little toys and clothing can be picked up super cheap, and they won't even pick that it is second hand. -

Contributed by Katrina, Empire Bay



Christmas Gifts for \$3.33 each

Yesterday I invested \$40.00 on seeds, pots, hanging baskets, two bags of potting mix, which I bought from the Reject Shop, and potting mix from Safeway (Homebrand). I will plant them now for Christmas. I will have twelve presents for a total of \$40.00. For \$3.33 each these will be gifts for mum, family and friends. - Contributed by Cathrene, Melbourne

Santa Gives Vouchers to Save the Budget During the Holidays

I buy entertainment vouchers for the kids during the year eg movie vouchers, Hard Rock ice cream, McDonalds etc and Santa gives them in their Christmas stockings. Then during the school holidays paid entertainment is already there waiting to use and it doesn't strain the budget. - Contributed by Liz, Gladstone

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