

Money saving tips checklist

You can always take a look around your home to see if there is any cash hanging about or see if you are owed some sort of cashback. If you really want to build your savings, try these money-saving tips. The more tips you attempt, the quicker your money will add up.



SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR SAVINGS SUCCESS

- Pay off debt**
Pay off the smaller debts first, (decreasing interest), then slowly build it up moving onto the much bigger debts.
- Make a budget**
Each category will need a cash value. Note the big purchases, and also reward yourself for goals met. Discipline yourself for any rules you break.
- Increase your pension pot**
Put away more with a work or private pension, (imagining how much you'd like to live on per month). Take advantage of your company's pension match.
- Bank accounts for different types of savings**
Set up standing orders for various accounts each month. You can always amend the amounts in the future.
- Re-mortgage**
At least every 2-3 years (depending on term), you should be applying for a new rates/best term for your mortgage.
- Bank birthday, Christmas money, bonuses etc and tax refunds**
Deposit your tax refund, cheques/cash from relatives, bonus, in a high interest savings account or ISA.
- Work your side job (or other skills)**
Set aside a couple of hours a week and put a price on your hobbies. Sell your music online, look after animals, walk dogs, clean homes and more!
- Utilise cashback offers**
Websites such as Quidco and Top Cashback offer cashback for various purchases online and in store. Some banks also offer cashback incentives
- Get a savings tin or two**
Although not many use cash nowadays it is always useful to take some out when you get paid, putting away change in tins. You'd be surprised how much will accumulate!
- Invest in stocks and shares for the future**
This can be done through various banks or apps. Start with a small investment, ranging from: oil, retail, electronic brands - leaving it for at least 5 years. Stocks and shares can rise and fall at any time.



SHOPPING SAVINGS

- Buy used/Bid for new**

Try not to pay retail prices for new items. Try buying used items, such as clothes at charity shops, gear, and toys. New but cheaper items from places like eBay or Vinted are a great help.
- Cancel unnecessary direct debits**

Review subscriptions/memberships on a monthly basis, getting rid of any you no longer find useful. There may be subscriptions you can share with others, i.e., Amazon, Netflix, Spotify etc.
- Look for discounts before buying**

A quick search for voucher codes or signing up via email for discounted prices will suffice. Look out for memberships, different rates and pre-pay options. Food is also discounted not too long before BBE date.
- Borrow short term items**

Try renting gowns, dresses, suits for special occasions. This is useful for other items you may need temporarily. There's no need to waste a lot of money on these things unless you intend to use them again.
- Temporarily freeze your spending**

Bank cards can be frozen via online banking. Attempt a non-spending week or put limits on how much you spend for a month or as long as you can.
- Reuse wrapping paper and postage**

Buying stationary for postage can easily mount up especially if you are selling a lot of things. If you have any paper, wrapping or bags, this can be wrapped neatly to package the item.
- Buy in bulk**

Stockpile discounted items like kids' birthday gifts, household toiletries, seasonal gifts, gift wrap, drinks, snacks etc.
- Re-consider if you actually need the item**

Sometimes we think we need something when we actually don't. Do I already have those black heels to match **all** my dresses? Am I buying too much holiday stuff that will make my suitcase heavy?
- Reward Schemes**

Most stores nowadays offer points for purchasing their products (designed to help you save points for future use). You may also save on your current shopping spree.
- Collect and use gift cards**

Gift cards are great things to collect from birthdays or an incentive from market research etc. They are useful for buying big items and more that you may have your eye on.



FOOD SAVINGS

- Grow your own food**
Grow your own vegetables (lettuce/kale are easy). Make your own cakes/bread and coffee)! If you can keep chickens that would be a bonus!
- Don't eat out so much**
Every now and then is fine, but don't make it a frequent thing when you have limited money. Bring water when you leave the house too.
- Not everything is for the Bin**
Sometimes, food scraps can be used to make something else. This can also be used as compost for plants, food for the birds etc.
- Cook meals in advance**
With a meal plan, you are physically aware you have enough food to last you for the week. It also fills you up more when cooked from scratch and saves time.
- Pack your lunch and coffee**
Save at least £3 a day when you have your own coffee and save another £5 when you already have your lunch!
- Utilise shopping lists**
Create a list of the things you need and tick them off as you go. This way you don't overspend and keep track of what you need. Try setting dates of when you go shopping i.e. weekly/monthly.
- Tin Food is valuable**
It is quick, cheap and easy to prepare. It's always useful to have a stack of tins just in case you cannot reach the shops one day.
- Air fryers and Ovens**
Purchase an air fryer to cut your cooking time in half (saving electricity along the way too). You still get the same crispy effect as an oven too. Of course, there are some things you still need the oven for!
- Reducing the consumption of meat**
Try setting days to eat meat or replace with other forms of protein that may be more affordable. Meat these days can also be quite pricey. Fasting to cleanse the body occasionally is also a great thing too.
- Drinking to party at home**
Although it's not Lockdown anymore and not compulsory to stay at home to Party, it can be more fun to gather a few people with some snacks and a Virtual DJ playlist. This also saves on taxi fares!



LIFESTYLE SAVINGS.

- DIY**

Learn how to repair stuff in your home if you can (I know Lockdown allowed us to do this). Keep your car in good condition (washing/hovering it yourself). Maintain your utilities, cook meals, and landscape the garden (watching videos or simply creating a draft sketch to start with).
- Monitor usage at home**

To save on electricity, only use appliances when needed - unplug electrics if not in use. Utilise your thermostat to turn on heaters, setting a reasonable temperature in your home. Use blankets/duvets to maintain the warmth. Energy efficient lighting/appliances should be used to keep the cost down.
- Take discounted holidays**

Travel off season or plan a staycation in your country or county. Look for last-minute discounts on unsold rooms or activities.
- Reduce or Stop smoking**

Lots of people smoke due to stresses of the world - try swapping a cigarette for a mindfulness meditation or a book. Stopping completely is a process of course. Try decreasing the intake as much as you can, so you can buy other things.
- Find frugal friends**

Hang out with like-minded people who support your goals. Those who have the similar mindset, will help you to reach your goals through moral support and vice versa.
- Minimise beauty expenses**

During Lockdown, we learnt how to cut our hair, nails and many more! If you still have time (and you are also good at it), keep going with that!
- Stream the gym/cycle at home**

Put your gym membership on pause if you have the space to do it at home. Gym items can be found online for cheap. Pilates and Yoga can be done via YouTube and other programmes. If you like cycling try do this around your area to get groceries or simply for fresh air.
- Wash clothes in cold/ quick wash**

This will save on water usage and energy bills. Try setting days/times i.e., the weekend/late at night to wash clothes at lower rates.
- Declutter old items and sell them**

This is a great way to earn extra cash and keep busy along the way.