

Getting Through Tough Financial Times

Spend Smart, Save Smart Tips

Ten Tips for Holiday Spending

- Review last year's spending and decide if and where you can cut back this year.
- Decide who should be included on this year's gift list; consider drawing names instead of buying for everyone.
- Set a price limit for gifts, holiday decorations and cards, clothing, food, gift wrapping, mailing, etc.
- Develop a realistic spending plan, considering how much money is left after paying bills.
- Stick to your plan by keeping track of spending, so you don't exceed your budget.
- Avoid using credit, as the bills will come due during the new year!
- Consider sales and outlet, discount, and thrift stores.
- Instead of buying gifts, give "gift certificates" for your time and talents.
- Create your own decorations and greeting and gift cards.
- Take advantage of after-holiday sales for next year.

Visit the *Getting Through Tough Financial Times* website at <http://www.ToughTimes.illinois.edu>



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