

HOW TO SAVE MONEY IN 2016

30 COST-CUTTING **TIPS & TRICKS**

While saving money has a lot to do with personal discipline and sticking to a budget, it helps to know some shortcuts. That's why we've compiled a list of 30 tips, tricks and strategies to help you spend less and get more for what you're already paying for – all at the same time.



01

RE-ROUTE PART OF YOUR **PAYCHECKS**

Your employer offers direct deposit, but that doesn't mean all of your pay has to go directly into your checking account.

Talk to your office's HR specialist about redirecting a certain percentage of every paycheck into your savings account.



RECONSIDER **AXING CABLE**



02

You've probably thought about it before. You may have even tried it but ultimately decided you just couldn't go on with your favorite sitcoms. Well it's time to reconsider. Technology has brought us streaming services like Hulu and Netflix, which let you watch the latest shows and movies at a fraction of the cost of cable TV.

03



That's right. Many grocery store chains offer reward points that can be used to unlock major fuel savings with every gift card purchase. So stock up on gift cards redeemable at places where you know you'll be shopping anyway and fill up on the cheap.

BUY GIFT CARDS FOR YOURSELF



04



BUY **GIFT CARDS** FOR YOURSELF – PART TWO

The internet now offers you a way to buy unwanted gift cards from their current owners at a discount. Sites like CardCash.com let you browse gift cards listed for sale at a portion of their current balance.

05

IDENTIFY THE BEST DEAL BY **READING THE TAGS**

It's true – at least when it comes to the grocery store.

When performing a price comparison, don't forget to look at the shelf tag below each item, which spells out the product's "cost per ounce." When you do, you'll quickly see that an 11-ounce bag of potato chips on sale for \$3.49, or \$0.32 an ounce, is a better deal than a 9.5-ounce bag on sale for \$3.29, or \$0.35 an ounce.



MAKE THE SWITCH TO
ENERGY-SAVING BULBS



06

It's a fact you can no longer afford to ignore – compact fluorescent lightbulbs perform just as well as standard incandescent bulbs while costing you much less. How much less? Try \$56 over the life of each bulb, according to Consumer Reports.

07



Bottled water is a drain on your wallet and bad for the environment. If it's purified water you're after, try purchasing a filtration system in the form of a pitcher or refrigerator dispenser, which you can use over and over by simply changing the filter every few months.

BE DONE WITH BOTTLED WATER



08



AND CAN THE **SODA HABIT** WHILE YOU'RE AT IT

Whether they're the sugar-filled variety or the diet equivalents that come loaded with artificial sweeteners, buying soda is an expensive habit that can add up fast. Switch to tap water and refill your savings.



09

DON'T BE AFRAID TO **HAGGLE**

Contrary to popular belief, extra discounts can be had on items like electronics, appliances and jewelry if you're willing to ask. Large retailers tend to be more willing to negotiate than lose your business over a few extra dollars.



WHEN SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES,
IGNORE THE **CURRENT SEASON**



10

You may have heard it before, but it really is true. Buying a warm coat in the summer time or a swimsuit in the middle of winter is an almost-guaranteed way to ensure you get what you want without spending more than you need.



When it comes to insurance, there's no shortage of players vying for your business, which means you're doing yourself a rather large disservice by not shopping around. Make some calls and see if you can find the same or better coverage at a lower premium. Even if you're happy with your current insurance provider, examining your coverage can help you to identify protection you don't need.

INVESTIGATE YOUR **INSURANCE COVERAGE**



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REPLACE YOUR DRYER SHEETS WITH **ALUMINUM FOIL**

We're not kidding. Create a ball out of a sheet of aluminum foil and throw it in the dryer in place of your current fabric softener. One foil ball can be used multiple times and you'll save on not having to repeatedly stock up on dryer sheets.

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LOOK FOR **EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS**

Many telecommunications providers including AT&T and Verizon offer special pricing to employees of the companies that use their products. Ask your employer who delivers your office's internet and phone service and contact that provider to see if you qualify for any discounts.



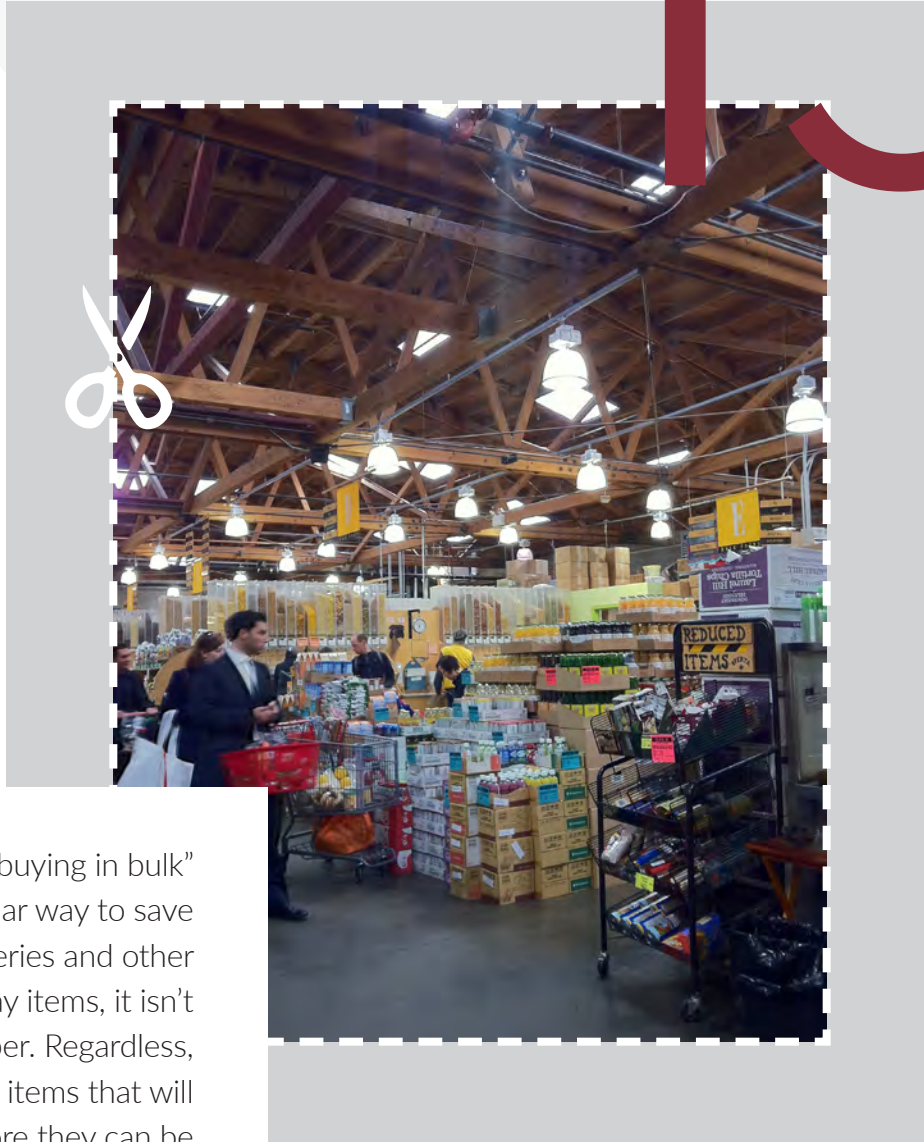
DOWNLOAD A **BUDGET-TRACKING APP**



14

If you use a smartphone or tablet, applications like “Mint” provide a simple and engaging way to manage your finances and track your spending, so you can create a budget and stick to it.

15



While “buying in bulk” is a popular way to save on groceries and other everyday items, it isn’t always cheaper. Regardless, avoiding items that will spoil before they can be fully consumed is also something to keep in mind while wholesale shopping.

KNOW THAT **BULK**
ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER



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STONE IT **DOWN**

Straight out of the box, most flat-screen TVs have their brightness settings adjusted to the maximum. This is to make sure the TV's picture quality is on full display in a fully-lit store. The reality is, you'll still enjoy great picture quality using lower brightness settings, you'll just be using a lot less power.

17

STUDENT **DISCOUNTS**

And not the kind you're thinking of, either. Rather, if you're willing to trust your hair to someone who is about to be charging big bucks for their work, but hasn't quite finished training yet, you could save a pretty penny. In fact, some beauty schools offer haircuts absolutely free.



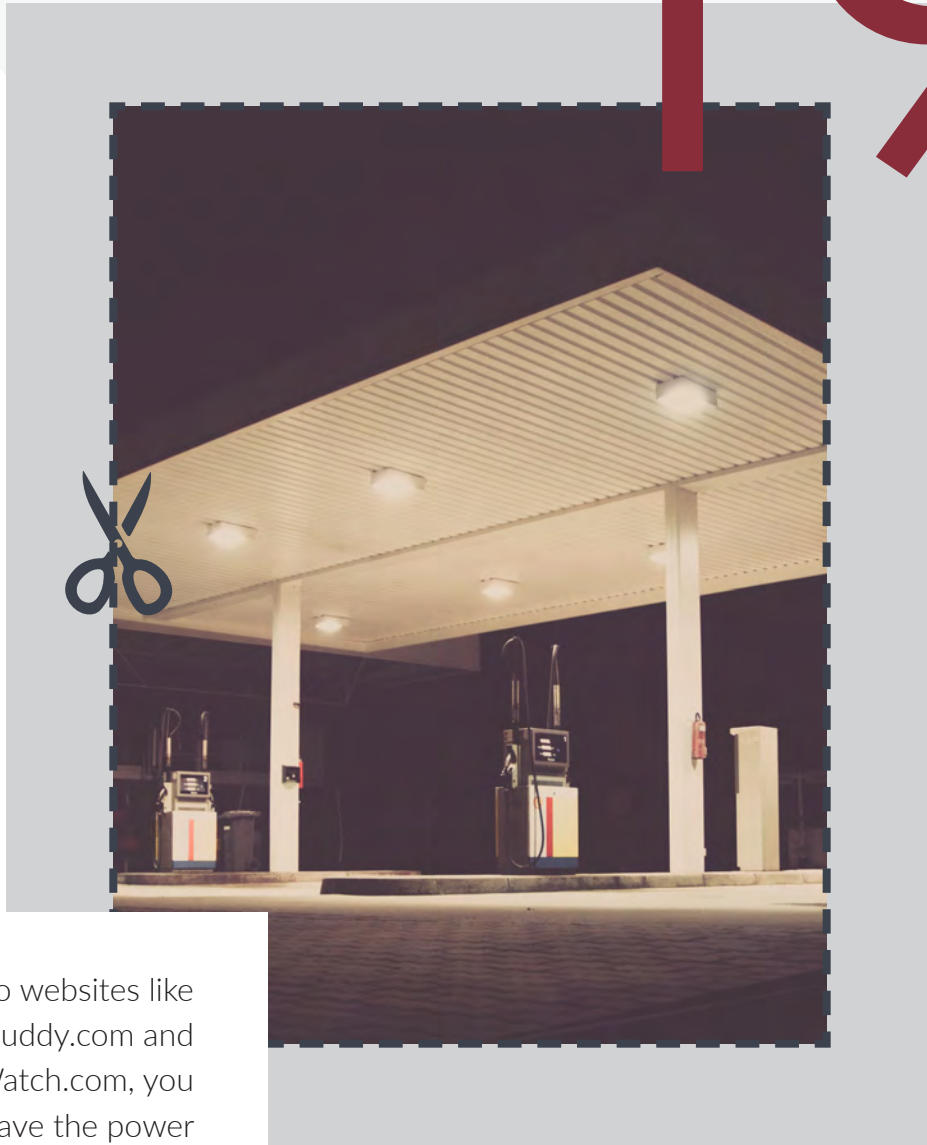
PAY OFF A 30-YEAR
MORTGAGE **IN 22 YEARS**



18

By making one additional mortgage payment per year, you can shave 8 years off of a 30-year mortgage term.

19



Thanks to websites like GasBuddy.com and GasPriceWatch.com, you now have the power to access up-to-the-minute prices at virtually every gas station in your neighborhood.

**SEARCHING FOR CHEAP GAS?
TRY AN APP.**



20



GET MARRIED ON **WEDNESDAY**

Or Friday, or Sunday. If you're open to the idea of tying the knot on a day other than Saturday, you can easily save thousands of dollars. What's more, booking your wedding before or after the peak summer season can net you additional savings.

21

THERE ARE TWO SIDES
TO EVERY **WET CLOTH**

If you use wet sweeping cloths to clean your floors, you can get double the performance out of each cloth by simply remembering to use both sides.



LEASE LIKE YOU'RE BUYING



22

When leasing a new car, you can secure lower payments by negotiating the overall price of the car, not the amount you'll pay per month. Since leasing is just another financing option, you don't need to disclose your desire to lease a car until an overall price has been agreed upon. Following this strategy will almost always net you a smaller monthly payment.

23



At approximately \$2.00 per cup, store-bought coffee can cost you over \$700 a year if you purchase it daily. Switch to brewing it yourself and you'll spend closer to \$.30 per cup and save hundreds of dollars.

MAKE YOUR COFFEE AT HOME



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DON'T DISMISS STORE BRANDS

If you don't believe store brands deserve a closer look, read the ingredients. They're often identical to those found inside your favorite name brand items, but are available for significantly cheaper.

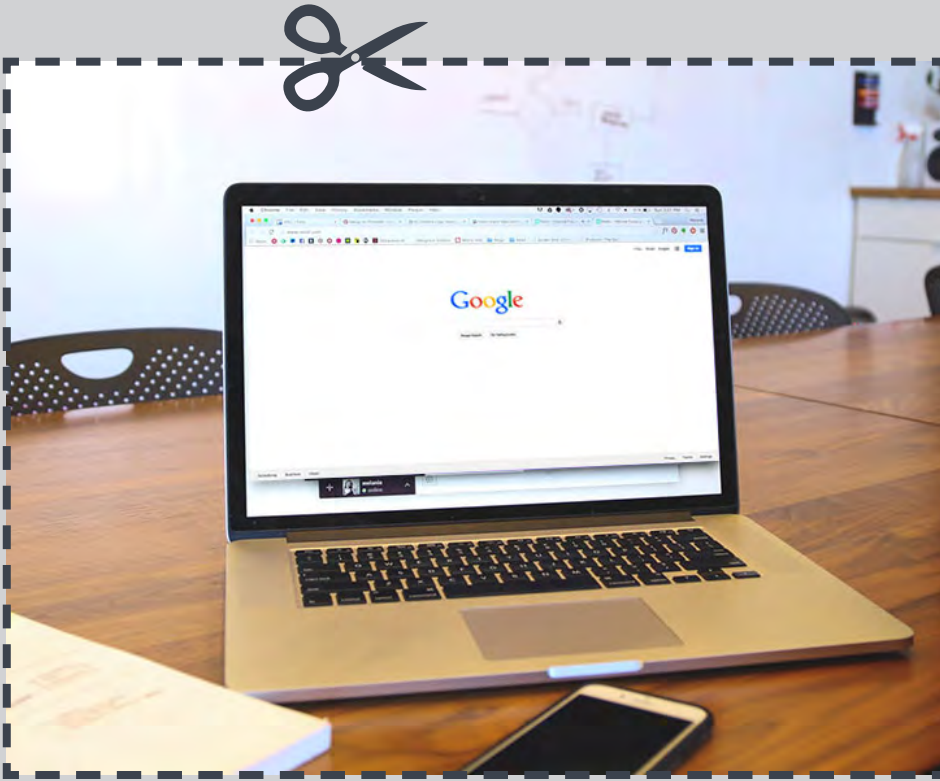
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TRY THIS "LEMON AID"

Bring your dull stainless steel sink back to life by using lemons and salt to make it shine. The combination delivers noticeable results and spares you from having to spend on pricey (and harsh) cleaning agents.



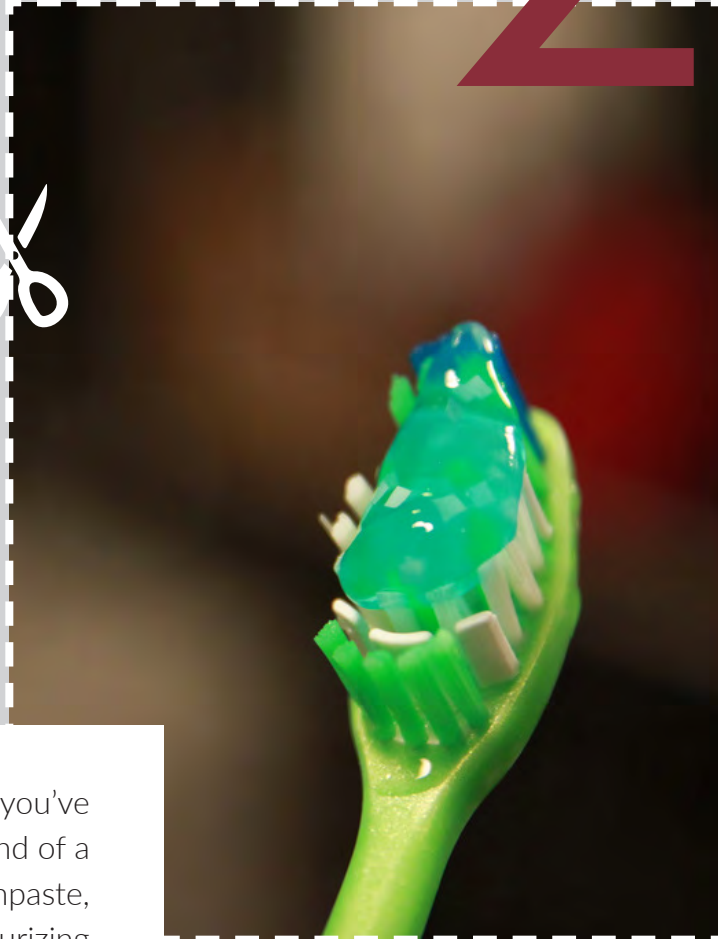
GET MORE FROM
YOUR SEARCH ENGINE



26

Include “discount code” in your product searches to find deals on what you’re already shopping for. You won’t always find results, but when you do, they can be well worth the time you spend looking.

27



When you feel as if you've reached the end of a container of toothpaste, hair gel, moisturizing cream, take a pair of scissors and cut the end off of the tube. You'll likely find another week's worth of product inside.

SNIP IT BEFORE YOU PITCH IT



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WEATHER STRIPPING STILL WORKS

If your home has old windows and doors, the tried-and-true method of adding weather stripping purchased from your local hardware store can save you a bundle when it comes to heating costs.

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GO GENERIC

Most wholesale stores (Sam's Club, Costco) and major retailers (Walmart, Target) offer generic prescriptions for as little as \$4 for a 30-day supply. If you're paying more at your local drugstore, consider making a switch.



CALL YOUR CELL PHONE
SERVICE PROVIDER



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And have them send you a list of everything your current plan includes. Look for any services you're paying for but not using, and ask to have those services removed.

ABOUT THE **AUTHOR**

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