

Holiday Budgeting Wish List



There's no need to break the bank this season

Even though the season comes at the same time each year, holiday spending always seems to surprise our wallets. Replacing decorations, purchasing toys for a family in need, checking an extra bag on your flight home, and other unexpected expenses pop up around every corner during the holidays. By creating a holiday budget, you can turn these surprises into anticipated costs. It can also save you time and stress by allocating your funds to different categories instead of wondering where all your money went at the end of the year. Below are a few different expenses to keep in mind when creating your holiday budget wish list.



Purchasing gifts will probably be your largest budget area during the holidays. Make a list of who you will be buying presents for along with a dollar amount of how much you want to spend for each person on your nice list. Don't forget to include any gift wrapping supplies, cards, and shipping costs in this section. If you are attending a party, you can also budget for a hosting gift.

Whether you are traveling by car or plane, budget for gas and tolls or plane tickets, baggage fees, airport parking, and shuttle costs before you hit the road. Also, consider how you are transporting gifts to your destination and how you will bring new treasures home with you. If you have any pets staying home, allot the cost of a pet sitter or boarding them in this section.



If you are hosting family and friends this year, you are going to have a higher grocery bill than usual. Try to plan your menu in advance so you are prepared for the extra cost. Holiday baking is also popular this time of year. Allow the cost for ingredients and supplies in this category. You may want to add a small amount for casual dinners or a coffee rendezvous while everyone is in town.

The holidays pose many opportunities to give back in your community. From donating cash to bell ringers outside the supermarket or buying a holiday meal and gifts for a family in need, to adding a generous tip to service providers, these are all items that can be added to your holiday budget. This will make sure your spending is on track and prioritize charitable giving.



You may find a few broken decorations that need to be replaced as you haul them out of storage. Or you may want to purchase a new festive item to add to your growing collection. This is the space to budget for these odds and ends. If your family likes to wear matching pajamas, aprons, sweaters, etc. during the holidays, make sure you add this to your expenses as well.