# Money Management Tips

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| * Write down everything you spend this month to get a sense of where your money goes. * Next payday, pay yourself first by putting money in your savings account before spending anything * Pick a date by which you will pay off all your credit card debt. * Assess your debt—how much do you have? * Always pay your bills on time * Write down one financial goal you intend to achieve by the end of the week * Make more than the minimum payment on your credit card bills. If you can, pay them in full every month. * If you are renting your home or apartment,, make sure you have renter’s insurance. * Leave your credit cards home when you go out this week. * When you no longer need your financial documents, shred them to avoid identity theft. * Withdraw cash only from ATMs that do not charge you a fee. * Order copies of your credit report. * Make a spending plan for next month. * Assess your spending plan for this month. Are you on track? * Every time you use your credit card this week, write down what you bought. | * Tell a trusted friend about your financial goals; have him or her check in on you periodically * Borrow books, DVDs, and CDs from the library instead of buying or renting them * Pay any bills you receive each month as soon as you get them. * Write down one goal on a slip of paper and stick it in your wallet to remind you of your financial goals when you are shopping and temptation strikes. * Avoid using payday lenders and check-cashing services. * Be sure to compare benefits before deciding on a financial institution. * Always read financial documents and agreements before signing them. * Spend one hour today organizing your financial files. * Always take time to shop around before making large purchases. * Take an insurance inventory. Do you all the coverage you need? * Next time you get a raise, and for every raise thereafter, increase your contribution to your retirement account. * If you are tempted to make a spontaneous purchase this week, wait an hour before doing so. * Compare prices of produce and products at the grocery store; see how much you can save by purchasing generic brands or items on sale |