



5 ways to save you cash this Xmas!

These are Jody's top money tips to help you take the stress out of your Christmas.

Whether you have children, a partner or you are single, Christmas is an expensive time of the year for everyone. Between presents, parties and secret santa's, here are my top tips for making it safely through to January with cash to spare.

1. Get Organized.

The earlier you start planning for Christmas, the easier it will be on your wallet. Layby still exists in many stores and most department stores offer Christmas eve layby pickups, making it much easier to hide presents from little ones and sometimes not so little ones! The earlier you get organized, the harder it can be to keep track of what you are spending. Keep track of your spending with our FREE Christmas Saving Plan.

2. Start a Christmas Saving Account.

Old fashioned Christmas Saving Club accounts can still be found at many banks. These accounts pay you bonus interest if you meet certain criteria. These days a high interest account that pays you bonus interest as long as you don't make any withdrawals can be just as good. Putting away a little bit of money each payday from around Easter time will make Christmas that bit easier to get through. If you haven't already worked out how much money to put aside for Christmas, use our FREE Christmas Saving Plan to get you started.

3. Make a ruling on presents.

Presents are often one of the biggest costs when it comes to Christmas and it can be hard when little ones are involved. Get the family decision makers together around June/July, when xmas is still too far away and ask them to make a decision then. Will you do a secret santa where each person draws a name out of a hat and buys a present up to a nominated dollar amount? Or will you all just buy presents for the kids? This one isn't always a lot of fun for the adults but your partner can still buy you something special. Decide what will work best for your family and then set a dollar limit for each present bought.

4. Split the food bill.

It is really easy for one person in the family to end up spending a lot of money on food just because they are hosting the lunch, dinner or breakfast. If you are the host, ask for help. Make a list of what items you need and ask the other guests to bring something off the list. Try to make groups of smaller items to even out the cost so everyone spends around the same dollar value. If they don't make a salad quite as good as you don't worry, as Christmas is as much about the good company as the food.

5. Bulk Buy.

Now is a good time of year to be searching for wholesalers of meat, seafood, alcohol and anything else you need for the day. You can save a lot by buying these items in bulk, especially if you are feeding a



larger group of people. The other benefit to wholesalers is that they often deliver either to your home or to your workplace. This is a good time saver as well as money saver! The problem is that the good wholesalers are already taking orders and will stop taking orders close to xmas. Start asking around at work and your friends to see who can recommend a good wholesaler near you.

About Jody

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Jody Fenton is the founder of Boutique Money Management, specialists in financial and investment education. As the principal financial coach, she is often engaged as a “money mentor” speaker at universities, large corporations and schools; encouraging people to learn about money, not be afraid of it.

Information about Jody, her experience and qualifications can be found at www.boutiquemoney.com.au/content/a-little-more-aboutjody

More MONEY TIPS from Jody can be found at www.boutiquemoney.com.au/moneytips.

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