

TEN RULES FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPENDING PLAN

1. Know why you want/need a spending plan. Establish in your mind a **clear set of objectives/goals** for your plan (what you expect it to do for you). For example: Budget money from pay to pay; Save money for an emergency fund; Pay certain debts.
2. **Make your own spending plan** especially suited to your own income, your own needs and your own desires. Do not try to follow others...your own method is the only one that will help you.
3. Include income from all sources and all your anticipated expenses. **Track your spending** in great detail for one or two months to ensure you have included all areas of spending.
4. **Make your plan for the whole year**...only in this way can you have a true picture of where you are going.
5. **Plan for the unexpected.** Make allowances in your spending plan for car repairs that may come up in the near future. Consider what extra money you will need to have to pay extra expenses in the future (ie: Christmas presents; birthdays; vacations). Also, plan for times when your income will be reduced (ie: parental leave; seasonal work; contract work).
6. **Put yourself on your own payroll.** Try to manage on as little money as possibly needed and save the rest. Give yourself a weekly "allowance" to spend as you want. This avoids arguments between spouses and guilt about "you spend more than me".
7. **Bring all the family into the plan.** If every member of the team knows the family objectives, he or she will work harder for them. This way, you will greatly increase the chances of success for your spending plan.
8. **Review your plan once a month.** Make up your mind to stick to the spending plan but do not be afraid to alter your plan if you see that it can be improved. **MAKE REVISIONS AS NECESSARY.** Remember, your spending/saving plan is not a straitjacket; it is a plan to help you make your money go farther.
9. Remember, it is not how much money you make...it is **HOW YOU USE IT.** Consider **NEEDS vs. WANTS.** **Each decision to spend is a CHOICE.** You may **WANT** to buy a new piece of clothing but it is not essential that you have it. Consider if you buy the item that you may have to go without something else to afford it (ie: entertainment; lunches for the week).
10. If, at the beginning, you fail at times to follow your spending plan, **DO NOT GIVE UP. STICK TO IT.** You will succeed if you are determined to succeed.