

LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS!



Know Your Income and Expenses

Know how much money is coming in AND going out. Make a list of all income. Then make a list of all expenses.

Track Your Expenses

Create a budget, or spending plan, by tracking how much you're spending and where. Use an online system if necessary.

Separate Wants and Needs

The difference between a want and need will help keep you out of debt. Before buying, ask yourself if you really need it or just want it. If there's no money in your budget for every want, start saving up.

Don't Compete

Don't get into debt by trying to "keep up with the Joneses". You don't know how others are paying for their lifestyle. Pay attention to your budget and needs instead.

Pay in Cash

Paying in cash makes you more aware of how much you're spending. And you can only spend what you have.

Keep an Emergency Fund

It's recommended to have 3-6 months' worth of expenses saved. Not having one can cause a major downfall for families.

Save Money When Possible

Buy on sale, skip designer coffee daily, buy secondhand, search for deals.

Cut Down on Expenses

If you're struggling to live within your means, find areas to cut back on such as cable tv, cell phone bills, shopping, hair and nails, etc.

Treat Your Savings Like a Bill

Create automatic bank transfers to save money. Treat this like a bill, not an afterthought.

Boost Your Income

Pick up extra hours when possible, think about doing some side projects to earn extra money.

Don't Deprive Yourself

Find balance in your budget for things you enjoy. Those are rewards to keep you happy and sane—life should include some fun! Just make room in your budget for them.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND INFO, VISIT:

<https://blog.mint.com/how-to/10-tips-to-living-within-your-means-0813/>

<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/personalfinance/savingspending/budgeting/means.php>