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5 ways to cut costs and save hundreds of dollars at home

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Boost your home budget with these tips.

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the Consumer Price Index, which measures how goods and service prices change over time in the U.S., rose nearly 1.5 percent in 2013, which means things cost more now than they have in the past.

If you're trying to spend less and save more, despite potentially higher food, gas and other prices, reducing what you spend on common household purchases may help.

Bank some bucks with the following saving tips:

- 1. Eliminate excess energy costs:** Unplug your small appliances when they're not in use (which can save you up to \$100 a year, according to [Energy Star](#)), only run the dishwasher when you have a full load, which the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) says could trim \$40 a year off your energy bill, and take showers, instead of baths, to conserve energy use — and spending. Save even more by turning your water heater temperature down to 120°F. You'll cut your water heating bill by 3 to 5 percent for every 10° decrease, according to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#).

Related: [Infographic: You can save by going green](#)

- 2. Get rid of extra expenditures:** [Woman's Day](#) magazine suggests canceling services you don't really use, like a landline — without factoring in taxes and local rates, AT&T's unlimited local calling package costs about \$24 a month, and Verizon's is \$18 to \$24, according to [The Wall Street Journal](#). Ditching a rarely read newspaper subscription can also save you some cash. An out-of-state daily [New York Times](#) print edition subscription, for example, costs more than \$33 a month.
- 3. Swap your water source:** Bottled water can cost a family of four more than \$3,000 a year, according to [HowStuffWorks.com](#). Using your faucet, and a pitcher with a filtration system, can potentially cost you less than \$120 a year — saving \$2,800 a year!
- 4. Shop smart:** Buying certain items at specific stores may help you save. Buying toilet paper in bulk from a warehouse store, for example, can save you up to 50 percent, according to [U.S. News & World Report](#). [Woman's Day](#) offers some tips on finding the best cleaning product deals, and [Good Housekeeping's 5 Ways to Stretch Your Cleaning Products](#) article can help you make your detergent, glass cleaner and other items last longer. Hoping to DIY your own cleaning and deodorizing products? Check out this [Apartment Therapy article](#) on green bathroom, kitchen and other cleansers you can craft from common household items.
- 5. Eat organically — and economically:** If you want to buy organic — which [NBC News](#) estimates can cost 50 percent more than conventional produce — but are on a budget, you may want to consider splurging on fruits and vegetables that have the greatest risk of having a high pesticide residue. To find out which items potentially contain the most and least amount of pesticides, check out the [Environmental Working Group's annual list](#), based on analysis of Department of Agriculture data. Purchasing generic organic products instead of popular brand-name products can also help you save.

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