

A decorative header image featuring various Christmas ornaments (red, white, and silver) hanging from red ribbons against a red background with faint star patterns.

## Holiday Ballin' on a Budget

The holidays are a time for giving, but often people can be a little overgenerous during this time of year and later find themselves in financial trouble. Consumer counseling agencies see a 25 percent increase in the number of people seeking help in January and February, mostly by people suffering from an influx of holiday bills.<sup>1</sup>

Here are our top tips for saving money during the holiday season:

### 1. Create a Holiday Budget

Monthly Income – Monthly Expenses = Your Holiday Budget

Make a list of everyone you will buy for and how much you will spend on each person, then stick to it!

### 2. Pay with Cash

When you pay with cash, you can get a better handle on how much you're spending. You're forced to stick to your budget, because you can't spend cash you don't have!

### 3. Pay with Gift Cards

There are websites and stores where you can purchase gift cards at a discounted price. Shop with them and you're automatically saving money. Shop for items on sale or at a discount store and save even more money!

For assistance with budgeting during the holidays or any time of year contact our retirement plan advisor, Matt Spay/Spay & Associates, at 563-326-0960 or email at [mspay@spayandassociates.com](mailto:mspay@spayandassociates.com).

<sup>1</sup>ABC News. Lingering Christmas Bills Can Lead to Debt Woes. March 7. <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/story?id=88539&page=1>  
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ACR#302055 11/18