

# 12 Easy Ways to Save Money This Holiday Season



The holiday season may feel different this year as you or a loved one continues cancer treatment — it's okay to worry about having the money and energy for celebrations. These cost-saving tips are here to relieve some stress around holiday travel, meals, and gifts.

1

**Fill your tank on Mondays.** Gas prices are usually lowest on Mondays and highest on weekends. If you can, fill up the Monday before you head out on a long drive to visit family.

2

**Be savvy about car rentals.** If you're renting a car for holiday travel, don't pre-pay for gas — the rental company will likely charge more than what you'll pay if you fill the tank yourself at a local gas station. You can also save on the warranty if you have existing car insurance that already covers damages and accidents.

3

**Fly on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.** Mid-week flights are usually the cheapest, while ticket prices peak on Fridays and Sundays. Save even more on holiday flights by setting price drop alerts with sites like Kayak, Skyscanner, or Airfarewatchdog and booking with miles or points.

4

**Get the most out of grocery discounts.** Grocery coupons expire the same day new ones go out, so shop on the overlapping day to get sale prices from both coupon flyers. If you always go to the same store, sign up for a loyalty card.



5

**Avoid convenience stores.** They charge significantly higher prices than conventional stores and supermarkets.

6

**Download money-saving apps.** Apps like Ibotta, Shopkick, and Checkout 51 will help you save money on groceries. RetailMeNot and Honey offer automatic discounts when you shop online.

7

**Use your reward points.** Cash in your rewards from credit cards, department stores, and loyalty programs to pay for everyday items or holiday gifts.

8

**Try thrift stores, Facebook Marketplace, and Buy Nothing groups.** These community resources can save you money on gifts, decorations, and other holiday staples.

9

**Buy refurbished electronics.** Save money on big-ticket wish list items like smartphones, computers, and video game consoles by purchasing refurbished items rather than brand-new ones.

10

**Clean out your closets.** Set aside unwanted, gently used items to re-gift or sell on free apps like OfferUp, Facebook Marketplace, or Poshmark.

11

**Stay cozy and festive on a budget.** Insulate your windows with curtains or plastic, use electric blankets, opt for LED string lights when decorating, and unplug electronics when you're out of town to save money on utility bills.

12

**Start new holiday traditions.** There are affordable ways to make the holiday season special. Get crafty with handmade decorations, gather for potlucks to share the load of holiday meals, bake sweet treats together, host game nights at home, and plan virtual gatherings to connect with friends and family from afar.