

Top 10 Tips for Managing Your Budget

10) **Tell a friend:** Correction, tell a *real* friend. This means someone who will hold you accountable without making you feel guilty.

9) **Reward yourself:** Everyone likes a pat on the back from time-to-time. Get yourself something special if you stay on your budget. Looking forward to something makes the task of budgeting easier.

8) **Let go:** No more guilt. Stop being so hard on yourself! We've all made mistakes (including me! I lost \$20,000 on one bad investment. YES!). Get over it, move on and forward.

7) **Use technology:** Online bill pay, smart phone apps, special calculators, email alerts sent to you from your bank, all these things are your friend. Hang out often.

6) **Check regularly:** Money needs to be monitored to grow, so check on it regularly to ensure it's doing what you instructed it to.

5) **Set a goal:** This will help you get to your destination. Just like it makes no sense to get on a plane without knowing where you're going, it makes no sense to create a budget without a goal in mind.

4) **Simple and soon:** Don't procrastinate and make things more complicated than need be. Start now. Write down what you spend each month. Then subtract what you spend, from what you make. Use your bank statements to help you. That's your basic budget. It's just that simple!

3) **Open a Bills Account:** This is a FREE checking account where you allocate your bill money each month. Separating your funds will help you to avoid "accidentally" spending money designated for bills.

2) **Give and get an allowance:** I bet you never thought you'd get one again. After creating your budget, decide which items you can pay for with cash each month and add their amounts up, then divide the total by 4. That's how much your new weekly allowance is. If you take weekly cash allowances, it will help to curb your spending. Also, give yourself a CASH allowance when shopping & leave the cards at home. This way when the cash is done, so are you.

1) **Automate:** By taking out the "flawed" human element, aka **you**, you're more likely to stick to your budget. I've automated EVERYTHING; payments, bills, saving, investing, even giving to charity.

