

October, 2004 Newsletter

Holiday Spending Tips

The holidays are just around the corner and gift buying season is upon us. It is easy to overspend this time of the year. Here are a few tips to help avoid overspending:

Edit your gift list. The easiest way to reduce how much you spend during the holidays is to exchange gifts with fewer people. You might even talk to people in advance and agree that, in the name of saving money and reducing stress, you won't exchange gifts but will get together to do something you both enjoy.

Find alternatives to purchased gifts. Try being creative with gifts: homemade treats, a coupon for your services such as babysitting, pre-addressed and stamped envelopes so an older person can easily keep in touch, a family photo or a tax-deductible contribution to a charity are all thoughtful gifts sure to be appreciated.

Make a budget. Once you've figured out who you still want to buy gifts for, you will do yourself a huge favor by determining your

overall budget and having a general idea of how much you want -- and can afford -- to spend for each person. This will help you avoid the temptations and frustrations of last-minute impulse buying.

Spend within your budget. Having a budget will be about as useful as melted ice on a hot day if you don't stick to it. This takes tremendous discipline, and you may want to enlist help. Shopping with someone who can provide the voice of reason is the best way to keep from overspending.

Keep records of all your purchases. To make sure you stay on track -- and so you won't be surprised by gigantic credit card bills after the New Year -- keep all sales receipts. Receipts will be needed if you need to return a gift and also come in handy when monitoring your credit card statements.

Allow time for planning and comparison shopping. Keep your budget in mind and shop carefully to get the best selection and price.

Moonlight. Taking on a part-time job for a few months, or working overtime, is a great way to earn extra spending money in time for the holidays. Even better, work a little extra here and there throughout the year, saving most, if not all, for holiday expenses.

Information	Page
Holiday Spending Tips	1
CCCC Survey Winners	1
Important Dates	1
Credit When Credit is Due	2
Monthly Statements	2
Adding a Creditor to Your DMP	2
90 Day Reviews	2

Important Dates

Wednesday, October 27 6:30 —
Credit When Credit is Due — Sioux City Office

Draw names. If your list of family and friends is long, suggest this approach to gift giving.

Implementing one or more of these tips can help you reduce the amount you spend this holiday season!

Lucky Winners!

Survey Winners:

Client #6317

Client # 6030

Stop into our office and pick up your CCCS coffee mug!

Congratulations!!

Client Quote:

"You have helped us get back on track with our financial goals! Thanks so much!"

Client Quote:

We were always treated courteously. Thanks to the entire staff for all your help.

Are you watching your monthly creditor statements?

If not, you need to start. Your creditors will not send CCCC a statement because the debt is not ours. If you don't check your statements and send them to us, we don't know if the creditor has made the concessions that they agreed to making.



Have you been in your Debt Management Plan for More Than 3 Months?

If so, now is the time to make your appointment for your three month review. You need to do this to make sure that the creditors are accepting the appropriate payments, reduced interest rates, and eliminated the late charges and over limit fees. Reviewing this information with your counselor will allow us to make sure everything is going correctly and we could end up saving you money.

Call today for your appointment.

Credit When Credit is Due

It's not too late to enroll in our next Credit When Credit is Due seminar. In Credit When Credit is Due you learn:

- 24 steps to improve your credit score
- A positive statement on your credit report that demonstrates your commitment to improving your financial health.
- Access to a growing list of financial advisors, lenders, mortgage companies, and others that provide discounts on the pricing of their services.

Call today to enroll in our November 24th class.

Adding a client to your DMP?

If you are adding a client to you are adding a creditor to your DMP, don't forget to add it to your monthly payment. If don't add it to that monthly payment, your creditor will be

Client Quote:

"I am noticing the balances on my credit report have dropped and may have saved me from I've ever had with late fees being charged or the wrong interest rate—my counselor is always helpful in getting it remedied."

