

The top 5 money management tips



Write it all down

We often spend more than we realise when we don't keep track. It all adds up, so knowing exactly where your money is going (and how much you have coming in) will give you greater control. It will also tell you where you can make changes.

2 Create a budget, but keep it flexible

This is an important foundation for keeping your spending within your means. But your budget shouldn't be too rigid: life changes and so does your income and spending. Review regularly and make changes if necessary.

Pay off your debts before saving money

Usually, the interest charged on your debts will be higher than the interest earned on your savings, so it often makes sense to pay off your debts first. Even those 'pay later' purchases!

4 Make an impulse shopping list

Online shopping is an easy way to spend – usually too easy. If something takes your fancy, don't purchase it straight away, but create a list and add it. You can review the list regularly to see whether it's worth it or not after having time to reflect.

5 Try the 50-30-20 rule

This will vary depending on your specific situation, but it's a popular rule for budgeting that helps you keep on top of spending and save for your future. Allocate your income (after tax) as follows: 50% for your needs (essentials like bills) - 30% for your wants (non-essentials) - 20% is for savings and debt repayments. This can help you balance priorities.

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