

Your Money, Your Rules: Take Control with a Spending Plan

The truth about money? To spend it, we need to save it. Without a plan or roadmap, balancing saving and spending can feel overwhelming. That's where a spending plan comes in.

A spending plan is a flexible way to see where your money is going, so you can make choices that match your priorities. It adapts to your life and goals without locking you into rigid categories.

Why it works

A spending plan can help you reduce financial stress, save time, prevent overspending, and give you more control of your money.



► Civic's *top 10 tips* to building a spending plan that works

- 10. Identify your spending habits:** Are you eating out more than you think? Subscribed to too many streaming services? Make a list to see your spending patterns.
Tip: Use the Spending Summary tool in the Civic app to see where your money is going and where changes can help
- 9. Know your expenses:** List your monthly costs by type. **Fixed:** Payments made every month, such as rent or a mortgage. **Flexible:** Amount adjusts each month, such as a credit card. **Periodic:** Occur at irregular intervals, such as medical bills or tuition.
Tip: Knowing what's predictable makes planning easier.
- 8. Separate needs from wants:** Prioritize your needs for spending, like housing and food. Then move "wants" (entertainment and travel) into savings goals.
Tip: Set a savings goal in your Civic Select Savings account.
- 7. Check your credit score regularly:** Your spending habits impact your credit score. Check it often to know how you are doing and where you can improve.
Tip: Use the MyScore+ monitoring tool in the Civic app for no-ding credit checks and tips on how to improve your score.
- 6. Predict future payments:** Thinking about a possible mortgage, refinance or auto loan payment? Use free online tools to calculate your estimated payment and make more informed decisions.
Tip: Use Civic's free online calculators to help plan future payments.
- 5. Manage credit card debt:** If possible, pay off your full balance to build credit while controlling spending. A low-rate credit card can help keep payments affordable.
Tip: Check out Civic Rewards Credit Card or a Classic Credit Card for competitive rates.
- 4. Prepare for an emergency:** Life is full of surprises. Aim to save up to six months of expenses in an easily accessible account.
Tip: Consider a Civic Money Market Account for higher-yield savings with no limits on access.
- 3. Automate savings and spending:** Set up automatic transfers and schedule bill pay for regular payments such as rent, mortgage or loan payments.
Tip: Open a Civic Steady Save Savings account to automate savings for a special event or goal, and set up Civic Bill Pay for recurring payments.
- 2. Save every day:** Take opportunities to bundle insurance, consolidate debt, refinance, sell extra items, and do research to get the best deal when making any purchases.
Tip: Use Civic budget, debt or insurance calculators to see your potential savings.
- 1. Celebrate your progress:** Choose a reward that is meaningful to you!
Tip: Celebrate! You deserve it!

