

# Tips to Save You Hundreds of Dollars While Shopping

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It happens all the time. You drop by a grocery store to buy a \$2 toothpaste and end up stuffing a pile of shopping bags in your car's trunk. That \$50 dollar bill, you had when you left, now resides peacefully in the cash counter of that grocery store. Also, a few more dollars are now added to your credit card debt. This is a very common scenario, but it doesn't just end here. When you take a look at the items you have bought, you realize that more than half of them are what you could have easily lived without.

As a matter of fact, most of us regret both planned and unplanned visits to grocery stores and shopping malls. The shelves and counters are always filled with desirable items that blur the line between needs and wants. Especially if you have your credit card with you, there seems to be no way to stop you.

Shopping itself is not something to be avoided. It is more or less a necessity. Also, it never hurts to buy yourself another pair of shoes, a matching scarf, a stylish handbag or a bar of chocolate. All you need to save your money is to shop wisely. Here are a few tips to save you a hundreds of dollar while shopping.

## **Make a list**

The easiest way to distinguish needs and wants is to make a list before going for shopping. Write down the necessary items you require. Strictly follow that list despite the unsettling temptations. A list doesn't only keep you from impulse buying it also keeps you from forgetting the necessary items. In this way you are also saved from an extra trip to the store, and in turn, an extra expense.

## **Downshifting**

If you are used to a product of one brand, you might be overlooking several low priced ones. Most people won't compromise on brands because it sounds like a compromise on quality. However, in most cases, there isn't much difference. If you are afraid of shifting to a low priced brand, start with a small trial. For instance, if you buy four packs of toothpaste every month, try buying three of your favorite brand and one of a slightly cheaper one. Keep switching the low-priced brand every month unless you find one that satisfies you.

## **Wait a While**

If an item is hot and new on the shelves, it is likely to be expensive. However, when it comes to fashion and clothing, the depreciation is faster than you can imagine. You can easily find a \$50 item being sold for \$20 after three or four months.

## **Ask For Discounts**

Never feel shy of bargaining. Shopkeepers are generally prepared for such bargains and they will always tell a slightly higher price than what they are willing to sell at. That is why bargaining works most of the time. If you are paying what they are asking for, you are being unfair to your own wallet.

## **Sum it Up**

Those 'bling blings' with discounted price tags might easily blind you, but if you keep doing the math, you might be able to keep your eyes open. Don't buy multiple items just because they cost \$5 each. If you buy four pair of shoes costing \$20 each, you'll end up paying \$80.

## **Shop Online**

Many people call it a consumers' trap but shopping online has one major advantage. You can compare prices easily. There are hundreds of online shopping sites and because of the competition they keep offering amazing deals and discounts. Before planning your trip to the market, check out all the online deals on your desirable item. Also, on sites such as eBay, you might find someone selling that item in 'not so used' conditions and at a very low price.

## **Leave Your Credit Cards home**

You won't be able to spend a lot unless you carry a lot. Most people regard credit cards as their infinite cash which on the contrary is just an added debt. It is better to leave your credit card at home most of the time and travel with only the amount that you need to buy the necessary items on your list.