

THIS  
MAGAZINE  
PAYS FOR  
ITSELF!

# all you

Enjoy life for less!

INSIDE  
\$68.55  
WORTH OF  
COUPONS

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Pumpkin

(c. 1,213,684)



**Fast fixes**

## Spend less on household supplies

Check out the many ways to save on soap, trash bags and other essentials

**Y**ou're at the store with cash in hand, and when your total rings up, you do a double take. You've blown your budget on paper and cleaning products—again! Sound familiar? The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that on average, a family of five spends more than \$1,300 per year on housekeeping supplies. Instead of shelling out that kind of money, lower your costs with the tips below.

*By Emily Hendricks Turner*

**BONUS TIP!**  
The more generics you buy at Target, the more catalinas print out for future generics purchases.

- 1 Look carefully at generics**  
Store brands won't save you money if they don't work well, so compare the active ingredients (especially in cleansers) with those in the brand-name equivalent. A few great buys: Costco Kirkland Signature dish soap, Target Up and Up sliding plastic freezer bags and Walmart White Cloud toilet paper.
- 2 Strategize with coupon blogs**  
Before shopping, visit a frugal-living blog that matches coupons with weekly sales at local supermarkets (find a site by googling your state plus "coupon blog"). Bloggers alert readers to deal opportunities such as which catalinas are printing that week and how to maximize them to get products for less money—or for free.
- 3 Subscribe to save more on Amazon**  
Most household essentials on amazon.com are competitively priced—plus, you get an extra 15 percent off as well as free shipping when you order using the Subscribe and Save option. You can have the product shipped to your door every one, two, three or six months, and you may cancel delivery at any time.
- 4 Nab pricey household extras**  
Been saving up your drugstore rewards? Use them to buy expensive household supplies you wouldn't normally splurge on, such as a toilet cleaning wand or an automatic shower cleaner. If you're new to playing the drugstore game, learn strategies for grabbing cheap and free goods at [allyou.com/drugstoresavings](http://allyou.com/drugstoresavings).
- 5 Be brand-flexible**  
Most people prefer certain household products, but to truly save money, you should be willing to forego your favorites and buy sale items with manufacturer (and store) coupons. Keep in mind that when you buy one brand, you'll often get catalinas for a competing product. Watch out for new-product coupons as well, which tend to be high in value.
- 6 Stock up at back-to-school sales**  
Big-box stores often run deals on common classroom supplies including ziplock bags, antibacterial wipes and tissues. Keep an eye out a month or two after school starts as well; you sometimes can find those useful items on clearance for as much as 80 percent off.

allyou.com

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PAN COMMUNICATIONS



## 7 Cut consumption

You can use half of most home goods and still get the same results. Snip sponges, steel-wool pads and dish scrubbers in two. Each product will last twice as long. Halve dryer sheets and most paper towels, too.

## 8 Follow product labels carefully

Many people overuse cleaners, especially dish soap and laundry detergent. According to a Method products study, 53 percent of those surveyed said they use more than the recommended amount of detergent per load. Measure the exact amount cited on the label (or less) and your clothes will be just as clean.

## 9 Be wary of buying in bulk

Before picking up a huge package of disinfecting wipes, paper towels or tissues, calculate the actual cost per ounce, roll or box. At the grocery store (and even big-box stores), it's often a better deal to buy the smallest size of a brand that's on sale with a coupon rather than purchase a mega pack.

## 10 Shop strategically at warehouse clubs

If you prefer to buy large quantities of household supplies rather than match up sales and coupons on smaller sizes, stick to the store brand (Kirkland Signature at Costco, Member's Mark at Sam's Club, and Berkley and Jensen at BJ's). BJ's and Costco fliers are full of offers, and e-coupons are available for Sam's Club Plus members.

## 11 Sign up for savings

Snatch up coupons for pricey items such as Swiffer starter kits and refills by registering on [homemadesimple.com](http://homemadesimple.com) and similar websites. You can register at [SC Johnson's Right@Home \(rightathome.com\)](http://SCJohnson'sRight@Home.com) to receive coupons.

### BONUS TIP!

Check out [savingslifestyle.com](http://savingslifestyle.com), [stockpilingmoms.com](http://stockpilingmoms.com) and other websites that list unadvertised catalina deals.



## Make your own household cleaners

Avoid harsh chemicals and save money.

TO MAKE:	DO THIS:	WHAT YOU'LL SAVE OVER THE NAME BRAND:
<b>Powdered laundry detergent</b> 	Finely grate one 14-ounce bar of Zote soap and one 5-ounce bar of Fels-Naptha laundry soap; mix well with 4 cups borax and 4 cups washing soda. Store in a lidded plastic container.	<b>30 percent</b>
<b>Toilet bowl cleaner</b> 	Fill a small empty dish-soap bottle with half water and half bulk dish soap (such as Costco's Kirkland brand) and use it to squirt around the bowl. Scrub and you're done.	<b>31 percent</b>
<b>Hand soap</b> 	Wash out an old hand-soap bottle and add about 1 tablespoon Dr. Bronner's castile soap (available at <a href="http://amazon.com">amazon.com</a> ). Fill the rest of the container with water.	<b>91 percent</b>
<b>Disinfecting surface spray</b>	Mix 1½ teaspoons bleach and 22 ounces water in an empty spray bottle.	<b>99 percent</b>
<b>Glass cleaner</b>	Mix 1 cup white vinegar (you can buy two 1-gallon jugs at Sam's Club for about \$3) and 2 cups warm water in an empty spray bottle. Spray and wipe with newspaper.	<b>97 percent</b>



## 12 Find freebies

On pgeverydaysolutions.com (click on "P&G BrandSampler"), log in the 1st of every month to choose from available samples of Procter and Gamble products such as Cheer detergent. Other sites to check out: instoresnow.walmart.com; samples.target.com; cvssavingscentral.com and.startsampling.com/retail/kroger.

## 13 Grab gift cards

Target, Meijer and other stores offer free gift cards when you purchase certain items (a \$5 card when you buy a Brita pitcher, for example). Check the retailers' weekly sales fliers for such deals. Then use the gift cards to purchase brands that rarely go on sale or necessities you have trouble finding coupons for.



## 14 Go for green

Find offers for eco-friendly cleaners, like Seventh Generation (seventhgeneration.com/coupons), on the company website or on resources such as redplum.com and coupons.com. Also visit scottbrand.com for coupons for Scott Naturals paper towels, napkins and toilet paper—all made with recycled fibers.

## 15 Look at the package

Manufacturers often slip coupons or reward codes inside their products for savings on future purchases. For example, purchase three participating packages of Energizer batteries or flashlights through Dec. 31 and enter their codes at nowthatspositivenergy.com. You will earn a \$10 prepaid MasterCard.

Sources: Sean Bryant, freesnatcher.com; Michael Clayman, editor of Warehouse Club Focus; Andrea Deckard, savingslifestyle.com; Alyssa Francis, kingdomfirstmom.com; Clark Howard, author of Living Large in Lean Times; Cherie Lowe, queenoffree.net; Beth Montgomery, ingoodcents.com; Amy Norton, amylovesit.com; Stephanie Rector, couponing101.com; Marcy Robison, stretchingabuckblog.com; Myscha Theriault, webesharin.com

## BAKING SODA: THE ULTIMATE HOUSEHOLD CLEANER

You already know that this low-cost staple can freshen your fridge and deodorize drains, but it also has some lesser-known uses. Try these tricks to avoid buying pricey alternatives.



### IN THE KITCHEN...

#### ✓ WASH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Skip produce washes—just put some baking soda on a damp sponge, scrub and rinse.

✓ **POLISH SILVERWARE.** Rub on a paste (three parts baking soda to one part water) with a cloth and rinse well.

### IN THE BATHROOM...

✓ **GET RID OF PRODUCT BUILDUP.** Next time you shower, put a quarter-size amount of baking soda in your palm with your shampoo; wash and rinse.

✓ **CLEAN HAIR TOOLS.** Soak brushes and combs in a mixture of 1 teaspoon baking soda and a small amount of warm water. Rinse and dry.



### OUTDOORS...

✓ **KEEP FURNITURE FRESH.** Before you store your patio furniture for the season, scatter baking soda under the chair cushions.

✓ **POLISH YOUR GRILL.** Keep your grill clean all summer long by putting some baking soda on a damp brush, scrubbing the grate, then rinsing.

### IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM...

✓ **FRESHEN CLOTHES.** Add 1 cup of baking soda to your next load of laundry (along with your regular liquid detergent) to get clothes cleaner and brighter.

✓ **DEODORIZE A FUNKY-SMELLING HAMPER.** Sprinkle baking soda in the bottom of the hamper (or over dirty clothes) to keep items fresher until laundry day.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: QUENIDA/ISTOCK; GAIL GETTY/IMAGES; JACI WALD/GETTY IMAGES