



# SWHP TOP TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET



## TRACK YOUR SPENDING

Keep a close eye on your spend during the Christmas countdown. Budget for each aspect and stick to it. If items turn out being a bit more expensive than planned, look to reduce in another area

**TIP 1**

## STAGGER PURCHASES

Spread out the purchase of non-perishables by adding a couple of items to your weekly shop each week in the autumn, taking advantage of special offers. Prep a box at home to collect your purchases and keep it safely in a cool place out of temptation's way. Add a tick-list to the top so you can keep track of what's still to buy and avoid duplicates.

**TIP 2**

## DON'T BE A BRAND SNOB!

You don't need to buy the premium brands just because it's Christmas. Get what you can comfortably afford.

**TIP 3**

## PLAN MEALS

If you're hosting for a number of days, meal planning is your friend! Be sure to think through each meal in advance so you know what you're cooking and what ingredients you need. Then do your shops with a strict shopping list.

**TIP 4**

## UTILISE LOW ENERGY GADGETS

If you have a slow cooker and/or air fryer, be sure to have them earning their keep. Look up plenty of [warming winter recipes](#) and twists on the festive classics to use these lower energy gadgets rather than cranking on the oven.

**TIP 5**

# TOP 30 TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET



## THINK AHEAD WITH COOKING

If the oven's going on, make it worth your while! Is there a stew you can cook on the bottom whilst you cook the evening's dinner?  
Get things cooked and ready. You can always freeze and reheat later if need be

TIP 6

## SHARE THE LOAD

Divvy up the responsibilities for Christmas Dinner, spreading cost and managing workload. Don't be scared to allocate different courses out between you and your guests. Most people want to contribute anyway and it's much better to have them bring something specific than \*another\* box of chocolates.

TIP 7

## USE YOUR FREEZER

If you're going to be prepping all those parts, don't feel you have to do it at once! Spread cost and effort by using your freezer effectively.

TIP 8

## JOIN FORCES WITH THE NEIGHBOURS

Only cook what you need. If you're only cooking for a small number, consider joining forces with a neighbour and share the food between both households.

TIP 9

## USE YOUR LEFTOVERS FULLY

Christmas leftovers can last for days! Search online for leftover recipes for every item in the fridge

TIP 10

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## HOMEMADE CRACKERS

Invest in reusable crackers (savings for the future) or make your own. Also doubles up as a low cost Christmas activity. And there's no need to buy treats for inside. There's lots of ideas for cheap or free cracker fillers online!

TIP 11

## NO-GIFT PACTS

Make no-gift pacts with friends and family early in the season before any shopping has begun.

TIP 12

## SET A BUDGET

Set a budget and stick to it. The hard and boring bit but do keep track of your spend and be strict with yourself. Your 2023 self will thank you!

TIP 13

## SECRET SANTA

For the adults, try Secret Santa or Pollyanna style gifting instead. And set hard limits on spend.

Go for a theme (most silly, most practical, most personal) or encourage everyone to make the gift to keep cost down and make for more interesting gift reveals.

TIP 14

## ASK FOR IDEAS

Whilst we all love picking out those treats we're sure they'll love and popping a surprise under the tree, when times are tough buying something you know they'll really use is worth its weight in gold!

TIP 15

# TOP 30 TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET



## START SHOPPING EARLY

Prep a detailed list of what to buy and then watch out for deals and discounts. Grab the items when you see the price drop. Use price trackers and Google shopping tab to help you find the cheapest price. Take full advantage of Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals but companies often have earlier sales now too which can be very valuable.

**TIP 16**

## CASHBACK SITES

Consider using cashback sites for purchases to get a little bump in January.

**TIP 17**

## SET UP A CHRISTMAS DRAWER

Keep an allocated Christmas drawer, box or cupboard. How many times have we found a gift in January that we'd put in a safe place?! Set yourself one location to gather purchased items so that you don't lose them or forget what you've already bought. Then when you see a perfect gift at a great price during the year, grab it and add it to the drawer.

**TIP 18**

## GIFT TO FAMILIES RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS

Make family hamper gifts instead of gifting to individuals. Include a mixture of homemade items, carefully selected purchases and items found at charity and second hand shops (it's much easier to gift unsealed items in a hamper).

**TIP 19**

## PHOTO GIFTS

Photo gifts can be great value homemade gifts. With printing costs for photos often only a few pennies each, there's a virtually endless stream of photo gift ideas online!

**TIP 20**

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## USE THE KIDS' ARTWORK!

Overflowing in your kids' artwork? Repurpose it as gift tags or wrapping paper. Or buy cheap frames for some of the items and gift to family and godparents.

**TIP 21**

## BAKING

Bake Christmas cookies/cupcakes as gifts for the family – or for kids to gift to grandpar-

**TIP 22** ents

## MAKE HOMEMADE CARDS

For those remaining Christmas cards, make them instead of purchasing. Save money and create a special festive activity too. Homemade cards are far more likely to be treasured by their recipients as well!

**TIP 23**

## UPCYCLE CARDS INTO GIFT TAGS

Surely we all remember making gift tags out of last year's Christmas cards as kids! A perfect January weekend family activity. And perfect way to eliminate unnecessary cost and manage Christmas on a budget.

**TIP 24**

## MAKE USE OF THE POST-CHRISTMAS SALES

Don't forget to make use of the post-Christmas sales too. Stock up ready for next year, it'll be back around again before you know it!

**TIP 25**

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## WATCH OUT FOR SANTA

Santa Trackers entertain little ones for hours on Christmas Eve and cost nothing. We love the [Google tracker](#) but [NORAD](#) is superb too.

Make it even more special when you link up seeing the [International Space Station](#) in the night sky. Provided the evening is clear, the space station is nearly always visible at some point and doubles up wonderfully for a glimpse of that magical sleigh!

**TIP 26**

## MAKE REINDEER FOOD

Reindeer food costs next to nothing (and you may already have the ingredients in the cupboard). A perfect Christmas activity for believers and such special fun sprinkling on the lawn or local park come Christmas Eve

**TIP 27**

## GO FORAGING!

Forage for greenery and pinecones etc for garlands, wreaths and table centrepieces. There's a wealth of beautiful decor outdoors ready to be enjoyed. Just be sure you're in a permitted area.

**TIP 28**

## MAKE PAPER DECORATIONS

Environmentally friendly and inexpensive, paper decorations are [bang on trend](#) this year! Make paper fans from small paper bags, tissue paper, etc. And decorate your windows with homemade paper snowflakes (it'll take you right back to your school days!).

**TIP 29**

## HAVE A PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAR OUT

Be sure to give your home a once-over to make sure it's ready for guests and clear of clutter. Consider whether any unopened items can be regifted. And sell items on Facebook marketplace, ebay and the like where you can to add a little more into the pot for this Christmas and beyond.

**TIP 30**