



Quaker Oats Credit Union

Money Saving Tips For Moving Out For The First Time

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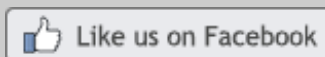
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Living on your own for the first time can be an epic - and expensive - experience. Learn how to move out the smart way by budgeting like a boss.



Here are 4 basic ways to cut back on expenses during your first years of independence.

1) Don your chef's hat

Cooking your own meals on a daily basis can save you more money than just about any other change in your behavior. Knowing how to make five basic meals (such as chili, tacos, chicken and vegetables and a slow-cooked roast with veggies), and having a microwave handy for reheating leftovers, can cut your food expenses in half. Plus, homemade food is almost always healthier than prepared meals.

2) Kill some kilowatt hours

Get into the habit of turning off - or even unplugging - lights, appliances and electronics when you aren't using them. Also consider getting a programmable thermostat to keep heating and cooling costs down.

3) Cut down on credit

Only carry one credit card and commit to only using it in emergencies. Using cash or a debit card for day-to-day expenses prevents you from overspending and accruing budget-busting interest charges.

4) Explore other avenues

Consider all your transportation options. Do you really need to drive everywhere, particularly if you have to pay for parking once you get there? With Uber, Lyft, Car2Go and other ride-sharing services now widely available, city dwellers might even consider ditching their cars completely. The cheapest gallon of gas is the one you don't use.

Show Mom and Dad you know how to move out the smart way by creating a monthly budget and sticking to it.

Below are 10 things you should include in your first budget.

- **Rent** - most likely your largest single expense
- **Utilities** - electricity, gas, water, cable TV, Internet, etc.
- **Meals** - supermarkets, restaurants, drive-thrus and delivery
- **Transportation** - flights, cab rides, fuel, auto insurance, vehicle registration, etc.
- **Medical** - prescription drugs, co-pays, etc.
- **Entertainment** - date nights, impromptu adventures, vacations
- **Clothing and toiletries** - new threads, soaps, shampoos, shaving cream, contact solution, etc.
- **Subscriptions and memberships** - gym, magazines, online movie or music services
- **Gifts** - birthdays, weddings, baby showers and holidays
- **Pet Care** - annual checkups, flea medicine

Source: www.mint.com

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