

Cost-saving at Christmas

Tips and hacks on how to reduce costs on festive food and gifting in preparation for Christmas.

We associate Christmas and this festive time of year with indulgence, treats and gifting. This can bring financial stress around spending. Here are tips to reduce seasonal spending without needing to cancel festivities or run up extra debt for 2024.

Food shopping

- It's easy to end up buying a lot more at the supermarket than you will need. Plan ahead before going shopping by meal planning and making a shopping list to avoid overspending. Consider the total number of your household and guests who will be eating at your home, and how much food they will need.

- Supermarkets increase food prices by up-selling with attractive Christmas packaging and the addition of extra ingredients to make it sound

Free local support at Christmas

For anyone struggling financially to provide a Christmas for yourself or your family check out charities, volunteer groups and organisations in your local area for access to seasonal support. Including free food and Christmas Day dinners, and donated gifts for children.

Free food apps

Too Good Too Go for surplus food from local shops and restaurants.

Olio for spare food offered by individuals in local neighbourhoods.



indulgent and entice you to spend more. Compare with the cost of buying food in regular packaging and see how much you can save.

Cards, presents, and gift wrapping

- The cost of sending Christmas cards is expensive, especially considering high cost of stamps. Aside from anyone who is digitally excluded and would appreciate a card through the post, save money by sending digital greetings, such as a zoom call or digital message. If you are giving Christmas or New Year cards, charity shop cards are cheapest.

- Reduce the amount spent on Christmas presents without financial pressure or stigma of trying to hide that money is tight by agreeing with your friends or family circle to limit spending on gifts to a smaller amount, such as £10-£20 per person, or agree to only buy presents for children.

- Buying tissue paper, ribbons, tags, decorative paper, and gift bags to wrap presents is another added cost. Reduce this expenditure by saving anything suitable from packaged purchases or wrapped gifts you receive during the year, and recycle these to wrap Christmas gifts. If you are into art and crafts, try making your own gift wrappings using online instructions. Reusable wrappings received this Christmas can be saved and repurposed for next year.

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