

Holiday Spending Checklist



Gifts

How many family members are you buying for, and what do you want to get for each person?	
Are you buying gifts for any of your friends or friends of the family?	
Will you need to buy gifts for any of your kids' friends?	
Do you need to get anything for neighbors?	
Do you want to give any gifts to your boss or co-workers?	
Will you be making any charitable donations this holiday season?	



Travel

Will you be going by car or taking a flight?	
Will you be staying with relatives/friends or reserving a hotel room?	
Do you need to hire a pet sitter or make arrangements for kennel boarding for your pets?	
Will you need someone to take care of anything in the home while you're away?	
If you are flying, will you need to rent a car or can you use public transportation or get rides from your friends or family?	



Decorations

Can you get away with using your existing decorations?	
If you are buying a tree, are you getting a live tree or would it be more cost-efficient to get an artificial tree that can be reused every year?	
If you're hanging stringed lights and some bulbs are not functioning, can you find the bulb that's causing the problem and replace it individually or will you need to purchase extra sets of lights to replace entire strings?	



Meals

How many people will be attending each meal?	
Will it be a sit-down meal with courses, a dinner buffet or a party with appetizers only?	
Can you ask guests to bring some dishes or make an entire meal potluck?	
How many courses do you want to serve?	
Are you serving more than one main dish to give guests options or will everyone eat the same thing?	
Will you have more than one dessert option?	
Will you be serving cocktails, beer or wine? If so, will you be supplying everything or could you make the event BYOB?	



Guests

How many days will guests stay in your home?	
Do you need to buy bedding, toiletries or any other household items?	
How will your guests affect your regular weekly grocery costs?	
Will your guests be staying long enough to increase your utility costs	



Holiday Shopping

How many people will you be sending holiday cards to in the mail?	
How much will you need for postage?	
Will you be sending any gifts in the mail?	
If mailing gifts, can you send them early enough to take advantage of low-cost ground shipping options or will you need to send by express or air mail?	