



Sustainable ways to save money

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17 awesome ways you can save money by living sustainably

Simple, low impact ways to save money

Want to live a more sustainable life but think it requires too much effort--or just don't know where to start? We're here to help. We've found dozens of simple steps you can take to be more green and also save money--a lot of it--around the house. Try a few of the tips here to start, then dig in to our rapidly expanding resources, including:

o CR's Sustainable Living Guideo Test Your Eco Smarts With Our Quick Quizo Make Sure You Buy a Reliable AppliancePlus: Look for CR's Green Choice designation, which identifies the products in our ratings that are better for the earth--and your wallet. We've added Green Choice to our washing machine and dishwasher ratings, and more product categories will get the designation soon.

DIY carbonation can save you cash. Based on our calculations, a family that drinks 5 liters of seltzer a week and switches from store-bought to making their own with a soda maker would save \$195 over two years--and spare 520 single-use plastic bottles. (This is based on using the highly rated SodaStream Terra, \$80 at some retailers.) Use our interactive tool to see when your family would start to save.

Taking leftovers home from a restaurant reduces food waste and maximizes the value of your dollars spent dining out. If you're ditching the doggie bag because certain foods aren't as good reheated, know that we found that an air fryer can bring even loaded nachos, tacos, and other foods typically thought impossible to resuscitate back to their original glory.

If you use single-use coffee pods, try trading those for a reusable K-Cup filter. Keurig makes its own, but you can also get one from D?liBr?, Di Oro, Fill N Save, Maxware, or Perfect Pod. And you'll save big: The average price for a pound of ground coffee in the U.S. breaks down to about 18 cents a cup. Compare that with Keurig K-Cups, which cost roughly 74 cents a cup. Based on two coffee drinkers enjoying one cup every morning, you'll save almost \$400 a year with the reusable filter, which can go into the dishwasher when you're done. (If you still have disposables, here's our guide to recycling coffee pods.)

Grabbing coffee out? Starbucks and Peet's, among other coffee chains and shops, offer a small discount if you bring your own mug. In our tests of insulated travel mugs, the 16-ounce Zojirushi kept drinks hot for an astonishing 13.5 hours--6 hours longer than the closest competitor and far longer than the Yeti Rambler.

If you buy purified bottled water because you aren't happy with what comes out of your tap, try a high-quality water filter pitcher. Take the top-rated Brita Rapids Stream. For a \$25 investment, this pitcher filters up to 40



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gallons of water per cartridge (replacements cost \$7 each). That's about equal to the amount of water in 303 plastic bottles (16.9-ounce), or more than twenty-five 12-packs.

Yes, they cost twice as much (or more) as single-use batteries, but you can recharge them hundreds of times. To get the most savings, use rechargeables in devices that require frequent battery changes, such as your computer mouse and remote controls for toys, advises Shanika Whitehurst, CR's associate director of sustainability. Disposables are better for products with a low energy pull, such as smoke detectors, clocks, and your TV's remote control.

"If you're heating your entire gas grill, a 10-minute preheat ensures good performance," says CR test engineer Larry Ciufu. "Anything longer than that is likely to be a waste of gas." Prep everything you plan to cook before you heat your grill, then set a 10-minute timer on your phone so you don't burn through extra propane.

Get more life from the mattress you have by rotating it or flipping it (depending on manufacturer guidance) at least twice a year. And follow our mattress cleaning advice. When it's time to replace it, don't be fooled by terms such as "natural" or even "organic." The two most meaningful standards are the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and the Global Organic Latex Standard (GOLS) certification.

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