



Get organized and save money - Part 2: Shopping

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With a little advance planning and some online research, you can save big money shopping.
Glendale UMC photo

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In Part 1 of this series, you learned how to get organized around the home while saving money.

In Part 2, you'll find that all it takes is a little advance planning and, in some cases, some online research, to save big money while you shop.

- **Trade in electronics.** Each time you buy a new cell phone, computer, or other electronic device, consider trading in the old one - getting rid of one source of clutter. Be sure to package all of the accessories, chargers, and cables for your device that you don't need anymore. Use [Wirefly](#) or [Tiger Direct](#) to get a charity write-off, cash, or gift card. Big box and department stores like [Best Buy](#), [Costco](#) and [Sears](#) have similar programs.
- **Save on groceries at local stores.** Make a list, and compare prices on the products you usually buy at [My Grocery Deals](#) or [Grocery Guide](#). You can search by product, category or store. Be prepared to register at each site, but there's no fee. Also, see the Get Organized article "[Organize your grocery shopping to save money and reduce waste](#)" for tips to plan your shopping trip.
- **Buy discounted gift cards.** When you just can't imagine what kind of gift to give that special person, consider buying a gift card that someone else doesn't want, often at up to 30% off the original face value (for example, by a \$100 gift card for as little as \$70). Go to [Plastic Jungle](#) or [Gift Card Rescue](#) for deals.
- **Find local yard sales.** If it's been posted on [Craig's List](#), you can find a yard sale in your area - or any area you plan to visit. Go to [Yard Sale Treasure Map](#) for the location, date, time and driving directions.
- **Download free owner's manuals.** Have you found a real electronic steal without the user guide at a local yard sale? Inherited a great kitchen gadget whose owner's manual is long lost? Most manufacturers charge a fee to replace the manuals, but you can find many to download for free at [Retrevo](#) or [Users' Manual Guide](#).
- **Use promo codes.** By using special codes, you can often enjoy discounts of up to 50% when you shop at online sites. Some discounts reward loyal customers, especially those who have store-branded credit cards, but many are good for everyone. To find promo codes for your favorite stores, visit [RetailMeNot](#), [Coupon Chief](#), [Current Codes](#), and [Free Shipping](#). Also, read the Get Organized article "[Organize yourself to save big money using coupons and promotion codes](#)" for more tips and strategies.

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