

We all have felt the stings and burns from the economic meltdown over the past two years, and with the local problem of the Deepwater Horizon spill, now is the best time to really bite the bullet and save money. Although it's nearly impossible to cut your electric bill with scorching hot temperatures, I thought I would make an introductory post highlighting some frugal tips for staying cool with pockets full:

- Shop at thrift stores like Goodwill and Salvation Army for awesome deals on clothes, furniture, books, appliances, and more! Make sure you don't become cheap, but pay attention to the quality of the products you choose to buy, and make sure they'll last instead of having to pay for repairs or new things as often.
- Get rid of your SUV! Shop for compact cars with better gas mileage, and save a ton by browsing Craigslist, eBay or other auction sites. No matter what you do drive, though, be sure to stop by the pump in the cooler morning or evening times, as gasoline expands when heated, making your fuel costs incredibly higher.
- Learn to cook! This is one of the most impacting methods to repairing your health and patching up leaks in your expenses. Buy wholesome grains and raw foods, and build a stockpile. After a while, what you have gradually accumulated will allow you to make any type of meal on the fly with recipes online at your fingertips! (You can go further with this by cooking bulk meals and eating homemade lunch on your break instead of costly dining, as well as feeding the family)
- Quitting smoking or limiting your nights out will cut extra spending you probably didn't have in the first place. Purchase larger quantities and look for manufacturer coupons and seasonal sales to stock up, and practice moderation!
- Cut the landline phone if you don't need it, and limit the amount of time you spend watching TV, get out and exercise for better health and less medical bills in the future. Better yet, sell your TV and buy something good for yourself! (Come on, you already get your news and shows online anyway!)
- Renew your library card! Reading is much more rewarding than passively watching television, and you could even buy a Nook or Kindle to save trips and cut costs on new bestsellers and more. Browse online book sites such as [Alibris.com](http://Alibris.com) or [Paperbackswap.com](http://Paperbackswap.com) for frugal book exchange.

With enough practicality, these tips will save you a bundle of cash, and make you healthier! It's not any harder, except in the beginning, and once you cross the threshold, you will wonder why you hadn't done it sooner. Using most of these tips could allow you to take off during vacation hours for travel and plenty of savings.

If you would like to share any other frugal tips, or reference local money-saving hot spots, feel free to comment below!