

# Cost Cutting Tips

## Easy Upgrades For Mealtime Entertaining

(NAPSA)—There is good news for Americans trying to stretch their budget and schedules. Watching the wallet doesn't have to mean sacrificing great taste.

"From gas to grocery bills, everyone is looking for ways to cut costs," shares value expert Stephanie Nelson. "With a few simple tips, you can host everything from a fabulous family dinner to a large gathering on a budget and it can start with something as simple as driving through a KFC."

Try the following ideas next time you plan a meal to save both time and money.

**Take your take-out to the next level**—Upgrading take-out is an inexpensive shortcut to making a meal look like it took hours to prepare. For example, at KFC you can buy Original Recipe Chicken, a large side and biscuits for a great price. The meal is a value on its own, but with a few simple tricks you can spruce up this classic. Put the chicken on your favorite serving platter and garnish with some greens like fresh parsley.

**Think outside the box**—Put the sides in your own dishes for that "prepared-at-home" look. Try adding parmesan or blue cheese to take-out mashed potatoes or top-



ping mac and cheese with paprika and bread crumbs to make it your own.

**Set the mood**—Take inspiration from your favorite restaurant. Likely, food isn't the only thing you love about this dining spot. Create your own atmosphere with candles, soft background music and other restaurant cues. Add some background foliage from your garden and decorate your table and entryway with fresh flowers. Trim a few holly branches in the winter and arrange them in a vase.

For more tips on entertaining on a budget without spending extra time, check out [KFC.com](http://KFC.com).