



MONEY SAVING IDEAS

Think Outside The Mall: Tips For Holiday Savings

(NAPSA)—Whether the economy is flourishing or experiencing a slowdown, finding simple ways to save money is a financial trend that never goes out of style. This year, shoppers of all ages are looking to cut costs without sacrificing the joy and tradition of gift giving.

Drugstores have emerged as a smart choice for holiday shoppers, since many now stock much more than just medicines and household cleaning products. Following these simple tips will help you stick to a strict holiday budget:

1. Take advantage of store promotions and savings programs. Good deals are not that hard to find. For instance, CVS/pharmacy, America's largest retail pharmacy chain, offers a program called ExtraCare that is free to join and easy to use. Every time you shop, you get back 2 percent of what you spend delivered as "CVS/pharmacy dollars" called Extra Bucks that print on the bottom of your receipt at the end of each quarter. Throughout the holidays, cardholders can find hundreds of instant Extra Bucks offers on items ranging from digital cameras and GPS systems to perfumes, spa sets and toys. Visit CVS.com to learn more.

2. Make your own greeting cards. Use craft supplies you already have around the home, or select a favorite photo and create a personalized holiday card at your local drugstore. The overall difference in cost will become increasingly obvious as you send dozens of cards out to family and friends.

3. Don't forget to look online. Your neighborhood drugstore might be offering special coupons and promotions on its Web site, too. Just pay attention to shipping deadlines to ensure your gifts arrive in time.