

Published based on [7 tips to help you get out of debt](#)

7 tips to help you get out of debt

In less than 50 years, debt has become such a norm that conversations about how to get out of debt can be heard all around us every day. There are many thousands of people just like you who want to change their life and get out of debt. By taking this massive step, you're guaranteeing yourself a stress-free, financially secure future and here are 7 tips to help you on your way.

Get real!

The first step to get out of debt is to admit how much money you owe. Until you see that total debt figure written down, you can kid yourself you don't owe a lot really, especially if you have many smaller amounts of debts spread around different cards, loans and overdrafts. You end up not trying to get out of debt because you've been lulled into a false sense of security.

Plan ahead

Half the battle when trying to get out of debt is paying your creditors. The other half is anticipating future big expenses and having enough money in your bank account to cover them. Christmas comes once a year at the same time so start putting away some money every month from now on. By doing this with all your bigger expenses, you can even them out across the year so you have less emergencies and feel in control of your finances while you get out of debt.

Have an emergency savings account

It's always good to have some spare cash to hand, just in case something unexpected happened, like your boiler broke down or you had a water leak. What would you do if you had no spare cash? The repairman probably won't offer credit! Some people like to keep a credit card handy for unexpected emergencies, which is all good and well, but at the end of the day it's the bank's money and not yours! So make sure you start up a separate savings account for those 'just in case' moments.

Start paying cash for everything

Our lives have been made easier and simpler with the introduction of credit cards, but it has also made sure we get into debt faster too! If you want to get out of debt it is important to get a grip on your spending. Start by working out how much you need each week to live on and then ONLY withdraw that amount each week. When you know your spending your own money and not the bank's it makes it that little bit harder to part with, because you know when it's gone, it's gone!

Wean yourself off the credit

One of the hardest things to do when trying to get out of debt is to stop using credit, particularly credit cards. Some people 'go cold turkey', cutting up credit cards and store cards, others prefer to keep a credit card active to have a little security for unexpected bills. If you decide to keep one line of credit open for this reason, promise yourself it will only ever be used for major emergencies and not because you might want to go shopping to cheer yourself up after a bad day at work.

Make sure you and your partner support each other

Just because you're fired up with enthusiasm about trying to get out of debt doesn't mean your other half may be. In fact, if your other half has been responsible for building up part of the debt, they may not be willing to stop spending and could sabotage your efforts to get out of debt.

Don't hold back when finding alternatives Be creative!

Half of the battle when trying to get out of debt is to come up with low cost alternatives to everyday items you are used to slapping down money for. For example, make your own cappuccinos instead of visiting Starbucks, use the library instead of buying new books, read newspapers for free online instead of buying them, and cook for

friends instead of going out to dinner. Try and come up with as many ways of having the things you enjoy at lower cost.

Its important to celebrate milestones

Each time you reach a milestone along your 'get out of debt' journey, celebrate and reward yourself to keep you motivated and your enthusiasm high. Each reward should fit within your budget and be appropriate to the milestone achieved on your 'get out of debt' journey, but should also be worthwhile and something that you would really like. Examples of motivators might be dining out a good restaurant, going to the cinema, a city break, a couple of DVDs and a bottle of nice wine, or maybe even a course at the local college. Choose rewards that will make you happy.

There are many ways and methods to [get out of debt](#) but its important to find the right solution that suits you. Once you find it stick to your plan and you will become [debt free](#) in now time.