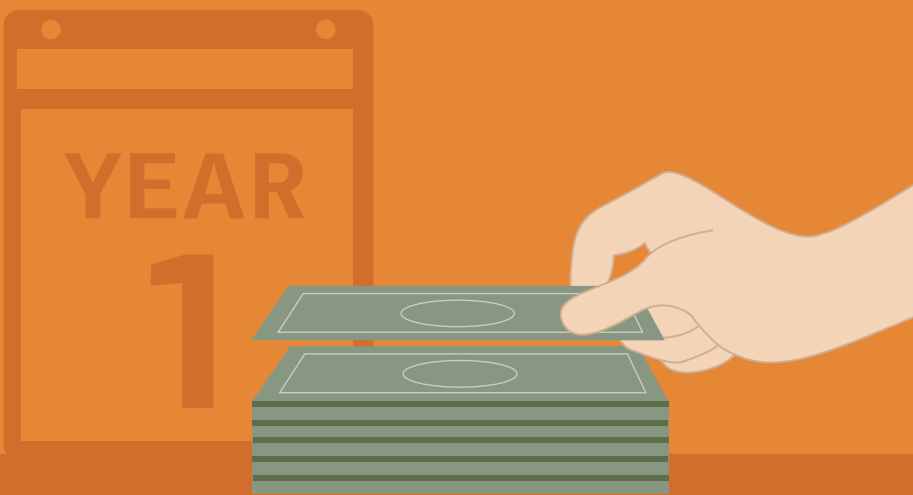


# How to build an emergency fund in a year



Putting away a big chunk of cash to cover an emergency can feel daunting.

Break it down, though, and you'll see that small, concrete steps over a year can add up to serious savings.

## Identify ways to cut back

Consider clipping coupons and bringing your lunch to work. Shop around to save for auto and home insurance: On average people save up to 32% just by comparing car insurance prices.

**You could save:** \$40 a month using coupons

## Make savings easy

Set up automatic transfers from your checking to savings account so you won't even have to think about it.

## Plot your progress

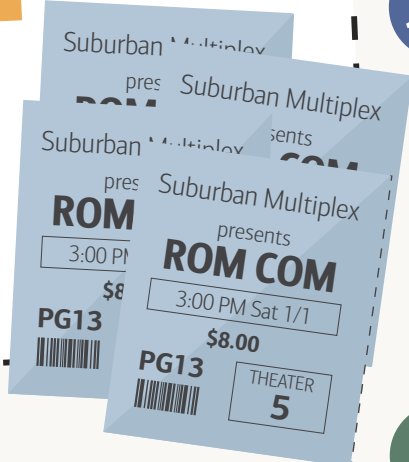
Are unexpected expenses like gifts or ordering takeout derailing your plan? Find ways to adjust, perhaps by preparing extra food and freezing it instead of grabbing takeout.

## ENTERTAINMENT

**You could save:**

**\$32**

cost of four movie tickets vs. a free movie in the park



## Hit the local yard sale circuit

You could score gently used goods for a fraction of the retail price. Or, hold your own sale.

**You could save:** A garage sale could bring in as much as \$500 to \$600.

## Learn to love your library

Libraries are great for free activities for both children and adults, not to mention books and movies.

**You could save:** \$24 if you check out four movies instead of renting online.

## Budget now to cut holiday spending

Can you host family instead of traveling to them? Create a family Secret Santa instead of buying individual gifts for everyone?

**You could save:** The average American spends more than \$800 on holiday gifts. Cut that in half and you could save \$400.

Jan.

Feb.

Mar.

Apr.

May

Jun.

Jul.

Aug.

Sep.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

## Set a weekly or monthly goal

Make your initial goal attainable so that you won't give up.

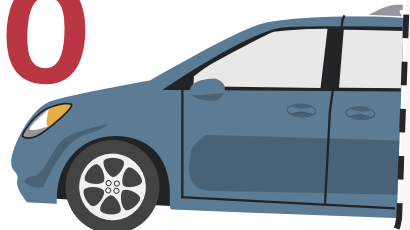
**Goal:** \$25 a week or \$100 a month

## SHOP AROUND

**You could save:**

**\$300**

yearly on auto insurance



## Stash your refund

If you're getting a tax refund, put as much of it as you can toward your fund.

**You could save:** The average 2015 tax refund was \$2,893. If you put away half, that's more than \$1,400!

## Trim your entertainment budget

Look for free outdoor concerts, plays and movies, and move the money you would have spent to your savings account.

## Stretch yourself to save more

Challenge yourself by upping your weekly savings goal. If you don't miss \$25 per week, can you make do without \$50 less per week, just for this month?

**You could save:** Another \$100

## FOR SALE



## Take a bite out of grocery bills

For at least one week, instead of buying groceries, try to eat the food in your pantry, fridge and freezer. Get creative about combining leftovers in new ways.

**You could save:** \$125 if you shave one week's grocery bill in half.

## Bank your bonus

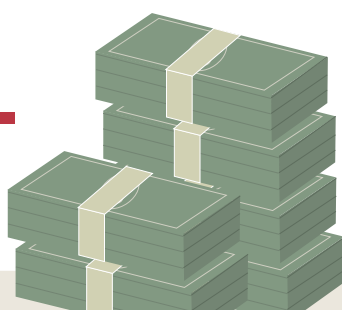
If you receive a year-end cash bonus, use it for an extra boost.

**You could save:** \$100–\$1,000

## YEAR END

**You could save:**

**\$3,000–\$4,000**



Everyone's life is different. Take a look at your spending to come up with creative ways to stash away cash each month.

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