



“We’ve Got You Covered”

Keeping You Insured, Enlightened and Informed!

301 West Haralson Street, LaGrange, GA 30240

Phone (706) 884-3339 Fax (706) 884-8039

www.MalloryAgency.com

20 Ways to Waste Your Money

Whether a newbie or seasoned budgeter, nearly everyone has spending holes -- leaks in your budget that drain money with you hardly noticing. These small drips can add up to big bucks. Once you find the holes and plug them, you'll keep more money in your pocket.

Here are 20 common ways people waste money. See if any of these sound familiar, and then look for ways to plug your own leaks.

- 1. Buy new instead of used.** Talk about a spending leak. Cars lose most of their value in the first few years, meaning thousands of dollars down the drain. However, recent used models -- those that are less than five years old -- can be a real value because you get a car that's still in fine working order for a fraction of the new-car price. And you'll pay less in collision insurance and taxes, too.
- 2. Carry a credit-card balance.** If you have a \$1,000 balance on a card charging 18%, you blow \$180 every year on interest. That's money you could certainly put to better use elsewhere. Get in the habit of paying off your balance in full each month.
- 3. Buy on impulse.** When you buy before you think, you don't give yourself time to shop around for the best price. Resist the urge to make an impulse purchase by giving yourself a cool-off period. Go home and sleep on the decision. If you still want to make the purchase a day or so later, do your comparison shopping, check your budget and go for it. Oftentimes, though, I bet you'll decide you don't need the item after all.
- 4. Pay to use an ATM.** A buck or two here and there may not seem like a big deal. But if you're frequenting ATMs outside your bank's network, the surcharges can add up quickly. Put that money back in your pocket by using ATMs in a surcharge-free network such as Allpoint or Money Pass.
- 5. Dine out frequently.** A habit of spending \$10, \$20, \$30 per person for dinner can be a huge drain on your wallet. Throw in a \$6 sandwich for lunch and a \$4 latte in the morning, and you've got quite a leak. Learn to cook, pack your lunch and brew your coffee at home and you could save a couple hundred bucks each month.
- 6. Let your money wallow.** If you are stashing your savings in your checking account or a traditional bank account, you are wasting money. You could put it in a high-interest online savings account and get paid to save. You can even get an interest-bearing checking account through such reputable companies as Everbank, Charles Schwab, E*Trade and ING Direct.
- 7. Pay an upfront fee for a mutual fund.** Selecting no-load funds can save you more than 5% in sales charges. Of course, no matter how well a fund has done in the past, you can't be sure how it will perform in the future. But if you pay a load, you'll begin the performance derby in the hole to the tune of the load. See the Kiplinger 25 for favorite no-load funds.
- 8. Pay too much in taxes on investments.** Are you investing in a tax-sheltered 401(k) or Roth IRA? If you're not maxing out those accounts *before* you invest in a taxable account, you're spending too much.
- 9. Buy brand-name instead of generic.** From groceries to clothing to prescription drugs, you could save money by choosing the off-brand over the fancy label. And in many cases, you won't sacrifice much in quality. Clever advertising and fancy packaging don't make brand-name products better than lesser-known brands.
- 10. Waste electricity.** Of the total energy used to run home electronics, 40% is consumed when the appliances are turned off. Appliances with a clock or that operate by remote are typical culprits. The obvious way to pull the plug on your energy vampires is to do just that -- pull the plug.
- 11. Pay banking fees.** Overdraw your checking account and you'll pay \$20 to \$30 a pop, so it pays to keep tabs on your balance. Plus, are you still paying for a checking account? Free deals abound -- but make sure they're really free. For instance, will the bank charge a fee if your balance drops below a certain level or if you download your info into a personal-finance software program? That's not free.
- 12. Buy things you don't use.** This sounds like a no-brainer to avoid, but how many times have you seen something on sale and thought you couldn't pass it up? Even if something is 50% off, you're spending too much if you don't use it. Couponing, for instance, can be a great way to save on your grocery bills. But if you buy things you wouldn't have purchased in the first place simply for the sake of using the coupon, you're wasting your money.

Continued on Page 2

INSPIRING QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together

-Vincent Van Gogh

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Topic of the Month	1
Inspirational & Informational	2
Recipes of the Month	3
Trivia	3
Testimonials	4

INSPIRATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL

20 Ways to Waste Your Money, Cont'd

13. Own an extra car. Okay, so a car is a necessity for most people. But face it -- cars are a huge drain, from their loan payments to insurance fees to gas and maintenance costs. Own more than one car and you'll double or triple those expenses. Ask yourself if that second or third car is really necessary.

14. Ignore your local dollar store. Shopping at the dollar store can be hit-and-miss, but it's not all kitsch or junk. If you know what to buy, you can find some real bargains. For instance, my local dollar store charges 50 cents for greeting cards versus the \$3-plus at a drug store. You can also score a deal on cleaning supplies, small kitchen tools and holiday decorations.

15. Keep unhealthy habits. Smoking is not only bad for your health, it burns up your cash. A pack-a-day habit at \$6 a pack costs \$180 a month and \$2,190 a year. A junk-food or tanning bed habit can be costly as well. Not to mention the money you'll waste on medical bills down the road.

16. Be complacent about insurance. Re-shopping your auto, home or renters insurance might save you hundreds. It also pays to evaluate your insurance needs. For instance, upping your out-of-pocket deductible from \$250 to \$1,000 can save you 15% or more on your car insurance. Consider using the same insurer for your home and auto insurance -- you could snag up to 15% off for a multiple-line policy.

17. Give Uncle Sam an interest-free loan. If you get a tax refund each April, you let the government take too much money in taxes from your paycheck all year long. Get that money back in your pocket -- and put it to work for you -- by adjusting your tax withholding. With a little discipline, you can use that extra cash each month to get started saving or pay down debt.

18. Pay for something you can get for free. Dust off your library card and check out books, music and movies for free (or dirt-cheap). Don't pay to receive your credit report when you're allowed to get it at no charge by law. Take advantage of kids-eat-free promotions.

19. Don't use a flexible-spending account. Your employer may allow you to set aside pretax dollars to pay for medical costs not covered by insurance. You can use the money for expenses such as therapy, contact lenses, insurance co-payments and over-the-counter drugs. You may be able to do the same for child-care costs.

20. Pay for unnecessary services. How many cable channels can a person watch? Do you really need all those extra features for your cell phone? Are you getting your money's worth out of that gym membership? Take a look at what you're paying for and what your family is actually using. Trim accordingly. www.Kiplinger.com

Halloween Safety Tips

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. Excitement of both children and adults at this time of year can cause forgetfulness and lack of common sense. Here are some tips to keep it all fun and safe.

Safe costumes: Fireproof, reflective tape or designs, no dragging hems, consider face paint instead of a mask. If a mask is worn, make sure the eye holes are large and provide good peripheral vision.

Jack-o-Lanterns: If you use candles, make sure they are not sitting in a walkway or other traffic area. Consider electric decorations if your neighborhood gets a lot of trick-or-treaters.

Carving that Pumpkin: Little persons should be well supervised and not be allowed to handle knives or other sharp carving instruments. An adult should cut the top, then let the children clean it out and draw a face on the outside. An adult should do the cutting.

Safe Trick-or-Treating: Children should be accompanied by an adult. Always carry flashlights or light sticks and a charged cell phone. Review common sense safety rules with your ghosts and goblins before they leave the house. Many malls are now offering supervised and safe Halloween festivities. No walking around in the dark. Consider a neighborhood party for adults and children.

That bag of treats: In this day and age of unpleasant things happening, it's a very good idea to inspect your child's bag of goodies for anything suspicious. If it doesn't look right, toss it.

Have fun and stay safe!!

Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sunday, NOVEMBER 1.

5 Fun Facts About DST

1. Contrary to popular belief, DST was not invented by Benjamin Franklin, although he did propose the idea to Parisians 1784. Eventually proposed and lobbied for by an Englishman, William Wilmett, in 1905, it was actually the Germans and their WWI allies that began using it first. The US was the last to follow suit.
2. People refer to it as daylight savings time, but it's actually daylight saving time.
3. Hawaii, Arizona, Puerto Rico and some other warm places don't observe DST because, well, they're just so darn sunny all the time.
4. DST causes a 5% reduction in crashes fatal to pedestrians, so for the next 6 months, it's officially 5% safer for you to cross the road without looking both ways. (But you didn't hear it from us.)
5. There are fewer violent crimes in the summer because of more hours of daylight. Crimes like mugging usually take place after dark, so having more daylight helps.

On that note: Cheers! And Happy Daylight Saving Time!

Easy Fall Recipes

Warm Turnip Green Dip

Ingredients

5 bacon slices, chopped
1/2 sweet onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 (16-oz.) package frozen chopped turnip greens, thawed
12 ounces cream cheese
1 (8-oz.) container sour cream
1/2 teaspoon dried red pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup Parmesan

Preparation

Cook bacon in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat 5 to 6 minutes or until crisp; remove and drain

on paper towels, reserving 1 Tbsp. drippings in Dutch oven. Sauté onion and garlic in hot drippings 3 to 4 minutes. Add wine, and cook 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in turnip greens, next 4 ingredients, and 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese. Cook 6 to 8 minutes or until cream cheese is melted. Transfer to a lightly greased 1 1/2-qt. baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Broil 6 inches from heat 4 to 5 minutes or until cheese is lightly browned. Sprinkle evenly with bacon.

Pumpkin Pie Dip

Ingredients

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
2 cups powdered sugar
1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin pie filling
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
Garnishes: ground cinnamon, cinnamon sticks

Preparation

Beat cream cheese and sugar at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Add pie filling, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and ginger, beating well.

Cover and chill 8 hours.

Serve with gingersnaps and apple or pear slices. Garnish, if desired.

A NOT-SO-TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Each month we will give you a new Trivia Contest and offer you a **chance to win a prize from the "Mallory Vault"**. Just one correct answer (or nearly correct) and you could be this month's winner! The entry that comes closest to the correct answer will be the winner. If more than one person has the exact answer, the winner will be the person whose entry reached our office first. Write down your name and answer, and then fax to:

(706) 884-8039 or (877) 237-2843.

**You can even mail the answer to us at:
Mallory Agency, P. O. Box 1209
LaGrange, GA 30241.**

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What trade was Greek philosopher Socrates trained for?

Your Name: _____

Your Answer: _____

Congratulations to Calvin Spinks, who correctly answered the trivia question from our last newsletter! (Answer: Gerald Ford)

Join us for the

**Experience Troup
Trade Show**

On October 20, 2009 From 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Callaway Conference Center at West Georgia Technical College.

Tickets are \$3 at the door and \$2 in advance.

Sponsored by LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce



FEATURING "TASTE OF TROUP"

You are invited to taste the food from some of the best restaurants in LaGrange and vote on your favorite!

SEE WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY ABOUT US!

"Pay as you go Workers Compensation...I'll be honest with you, I really like monthly reporting on my Workers Compensation. It truly is pay as you go, and as a contractor, it really helps with my cash flow. I pay Workers Compensation premiums when I am working. "

Eddie Bryant, West GA Plastering, LaGrange, GA

"I have always found Mallory Agency very responsive to my needs. There is a very qualified staff always on hand to handle any insurance questions or problems. Most important - rates are very competitive."

Jimmy Matthews, LaGrange, GA

"At Mallory Agency, they have friendly people working to find you the best price and coverage. I save about five hundred a year."

Billy Parkerson

"Excellent service! We saved several hundred dollars on our home and auto policies. Thank you so much!"

Brigitte McCullough

"Everything so far has been outstanding with the fire claim. We are very pleased with the sense of urgency that was shown. We were back in business in about two weeks and could not be happier with the quality of the restoration. As you know, it is all about service after the sell."

Bob Woods, IHOP, Snellville, GA

"Sherrie helped with my car insurance. She found a drastic cut on a new company almost cutting my premium in half. I have nothing but praise for her and the company."

Tim Thrower, LaGrange, GA

**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS.
YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**



100 Year Anniversary 1907-2007

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.malloryagency.com

**T H E M A L L O R Y
A G E N C Y**

301 West Haralson Street
LaGrange, GA 30240
Phone (706) 884-3339
Fax (706) 884-8039
www.malloryagency.com