

Organizing in a Bad Economy

Megan Spears, May 2008

With rising gas prices and grocery bills skyrocketing, it's important to think about ways to save money. Here are 5 tips on getting better organized for economic living today:

1. **Plan week ahead of time.** Pick one day a week to layout your schedule and your task list. Planning ahead will allow you to combine your number of trips to the store or into town.
2. **If it's Not For Sale, It's Not On Sale.** I don't know where I heard this, but it has always resonated with me! When planning out your grocery shopping do it ahead of time, with a list. The most important thing is to read your local ad to see how to plan. If it's not on sale, it's not for sale!
3. **Profitable Garage Sales.** Garage sales can be profitable with a little pre-planning. Simplify your pricing by .25/.50/\$1.00 and so on. Have a free box and make sure everything is labeled! The key is to get foot traffic... the more people, the more you will sell. Remember when selling things in a garage sale you should never price items more that 60% off the original price!
4. **Using what you have!** Recycling doesn't have to be just for garbage and disposables. Cut up old t-shirts for cleaning towels, reuse plastic bags for garbage sacks. One of my personal favorites is letting the ends of the bread dry out and crumbling them to use for bread crumbs. I haven't bought bread crumbs in the store in years!
5. **When to do what!** With summer here, it's a great time to save on the good 'ole electric bill! With hours of sunlight we get each day leaving lights off can be a huge savings to your bill. Line drying cloths and hand washing dishes can also be a huge savings on your electric bill too!