


TRACKING YOUR MONEY

To control your finances, you must track your money. This sample chart will get you started, and you can add more as you go along. Make this a family challenge, because all members need to play their part in budgeting!

 For each of these expense categories, write down your average monthly cost.

Expense	Average Monthly Cost
Mortgage or rent	
Property tax or fees	
Property insurance	
Auto insurance	
Loan payments: Car, education, appliances	
Medical: Prescriptions, dental, eye exams, doctor/hospital payments	
Utilities: Electric, gas, water, sewer, trash pickup	
Communications: Phone, Internet, TV	
Food: Grocery, eat out/pickup, lunch, snacks	
Child-related costs: Day care, education, clothing, toys	
Entertainment, gifts, and holiday expenses	
Household products: Paper goods, cleaning products, furniture, furnishings, tools	
Outdoor: Landscaping, outdoor home repairs	
Appliances, appliance repair	
Transportation: Fuel, maintenance, repairs, cleaning	
Personal: Hair, clothing, jewelry, shoes	
Memberships: Gym, clubs	
Special interests: Hobbies, crafts, movies, CDs, books/magazines, outdoor/sports equipment/activities	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	
Total:	

Subtract this monthly average from your monthly income. If your expenses are more than your income, you may be living on credit. This is a red flag that means you need to spend less, pay off debt, and start a savings plan.