

New York State Consumer Protection Board is on your **SYDE!**

Please **JOIN** our **Stretch Your Dollar Effort:**



## Summer Tips

The following suggestions have been received from consumers thus far. Please add your own suggestions by sending an email to [my2cents@consumer.state.ny.us](mailto:my2cents@consumer.state.ny.us).

### **HOME:**

- Turn down your air conditioner during the day when no one is home. If you can, schedule it to start and stop with the use of a timer to avoid wasteful cooling bills.
- Try using a fan to circulate fresh air, when it is not too hot outside, as opposed to using an air conditioner.
- Plant a garden. The food you grow yourself is less expensive, more nutritious and often tastier than that which you can purchase at the grocery store.
- Consider growing or buying extra produce while it is still in season and freezing it for use during the winter months when fresh produce is not as plentiful and prices likely increase.
- Use the BBQ to cook instead of the oven to keep your home cooler and your energy bills lower.
- Repurpose pants that children have grown out of into shorts, if they still fit in the waist, by cutting the bottoms off.
- Make your own ice pops by freezing your favorite juice into containers or ice cube trays for a delicious inexpensive treat.
- Water your lawn early in the morning or late in the evening so that the water has more time to soak in before evaporation occurs. You will need much less water to achieve the same outcome, thus saving time and money while also helping the environment.
- Consider taking care of your lawn even if you have hired someone in previous years. It will not only save you money but it is also great exercise!
- Take time to organize your finances now as summer will be over before you know it. It is never too early to get prepared for back-to-school and holiday shopping.
- **Add your own tip!**

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### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Take advantage of free concerts, shows, fairs, museums or plays near your home or place of employment.
- Check online and in local newspapers for special discounts and coupons for summer events in your area.
- Look for free or low-cost lesson for tennis or swimming at municipal parks.
- Enjoy a walk in the park or on the beach rather than going to a more expensive destination. Some of the most beautiful scenes like a sunset are free to everyone!
- Organize a family or friend picnic and share the effort of making the food rather than purchasing ready-made foods.
- Ride your bike instead of driving to your destination if it is not too far a distance.
- If you have a gym membership, find out if you can take a leave of absence during the summer months when it is easier to exercise outside.
  
- ***Add your own tip!***

### **TRAVEL:**

- If you are taking a trip that involves a plane ride, try flying mid-week as opposed to on a weekend. When your plans are more flexible, you can save money.
- If your summer plans involve a road trip, ask your destination hotel if they have any incentives. Many hotels are offering free gas cards or other perks to entice you to stay at their facility.
- If traveling to a theme park, inquire as to what they allow visitors to carry with them. If you can, bring food and drinks in a cooler rather than purchasing food on site.
- Consider camping in one of the State's campgrounds. It is much less expensive than many other vacation destinations and lots of fun too!
- Take advantage of last minute deals the closer it gets to your vacation. Discount plane fare and hotel rates may become available closer to the date of your travel due to high vacancy rates. Keep in mind that you may have to be flexible to take advantage of such discounts.
- If traveling with a large family or group, consider renting a house. This will allow you to accommodate more people at a less expensive rate. A fully efficient kitchen also enables you to cook meals as opposed to eating out.
  
- ***Add your own tip!***