

Spring 2016

Cambridge Quarterly **NEWSLETTER**

A personal finance newsletter presented by Cambridge Credit Counseling

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Don't Miss These Spring Cleaning Areas

1. Behind appliances - Dust and grime can collect over time behind appliances like your oven, dryer, and refrigerator. If possible, pull them out and clean behind and underneath them! You could reduce your energy bills AND prevent a house fire!

2. Medicine Cabinet - This is a good time to toss any expired medicines and take inventory of what you do and don't have on hand. No need to waste money on cold medicine if you already have some in the back of the cabinet.

Money-Saving Moving Tips

Whether you're moving down the road or across the country, moving can be a big undertaking. Costly and confusing, a move can cause your bank account to take a larger hit than necessary if you're not organized. There are many things that could impact the cost of your move, such as the time of your relocation, how many of your belongings you plan on taking with you - even the way you pack your things. Making the right decisions on these aspects of your move, as well as many others, could help you save your wallet as well as your sanity. Here are some of the most helpful tips to consider if you're planning to move this spring and want to save money.

Be Flexible on a Timeframe

Not many people want to move during cold weather months. The thought of carrying heavy furniture through snow or ice isn't especially appealing, and there are increased chances of delays during bad weather. The competition for moving services during the summertime may even make you consider a winter move next time around.

For obvious reasons (good weather, ease of travel, etc.), the most popular time to move is during the spring and summer months. If you don't reserve a moving service far in advance, there's a chance you'll miss out on your target dates and need to consider other options, including performing the entire move by yourself, so start calling movers as soon as possible. You'll also want to be flexible when it comes to specific moving dates, as you'll likely be competing with other families for the movers who can service the geographic areas involved. You may even be offered a lower rate if you can accommodate your mover's busy schedule.

Sell, Donate or Toss

The cost of moving everything you own to a new home varies depending on the amount of things you intend to take with you. Less stuff equals a smaller truck, less weight, less work for professional

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Things to Sell at Your Garage Sale

1. Clothing
2. Toys or games
3. Furniture
4. Sports equipment
5. Pots, Pans, Dishes, and Glasses
6. Tools
7. DVDs and CDs
8. Baby stroller/
playpen
9. Luggage/Purses
10. Small Appliances



3. **Refrigerator** - Don't forget to clean out foods and condiments that may have expired! Spoiled food can cause the food around it to taste bad or spoil, as well! Take a shot at the pantry while you're at it!

4. **Air Ducts** - These can get dirty after just a few months and can actually decrease the quality of the air in your home. We recommend you hire an HVAC professional to help with this spring cleaning chore!



How to Save Money While Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning doesn't just mean taking a few days to scrub your house down – it can also be an opportunity to save some money! When you think of spring cleaning, what comes to mind? Washing the windows, cleaning the gutters, and mopping the floors? Well, we're here to give you some ideas you may never have thought of including in your spring cleaning routine.

Take Inventory

We've all gone out shopping only to return home and realize we've just purchased an item we already own. If only we had stopped to take a look at what we had before we left the house, right? Well, we think that you should take advantage of the "Season of Cleaning" and take inventory of everything of value that your family already owns. This can apply to food, small appliances, clothing – you determine the minimum value you want to document. Beyond the value such a listing can play in the event of a fire or other disaster, it can help you avoid the dreaded duplicate purchase. Do you think your kids need a new winter coat? Dig through the closets and make sure you're not forgetting about those winter coats hiding in the very back! You'll end up saving a lot of money by making sure you know what you truly need before making any unnecessary purchases.

Have a Yard Sale

Even if you're not moving, you may discover a number of items in and around your house that you no longer need or want. Instead of tossing them in the trash, host a yard sale instead! Depending on how much you're able to sell, a garage sale can be a great source of extra money that could be used to pay off bills from the holidays or simply to give some you extra pocket money for the month. We suggest that you price your items reasonably. Keep in mind that the type of people shopping at your sale are most likely "budget-loving" people who won't want to pay \$100 for a chair – even if you think it may be worth a lot more.

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Karen Beaulieu
AFCPE Certified Credit Counselor
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NCHEC Certified HECM Counselor

Meet the Cambridge Team

Karen Beaulieu has been a part of the Cambridge family for more than 14 years and still enjoys coming to work to help others. As a reverse mortgage counselor, Karen helps senior citizens make informed decisions about using a Reverse Mortgage to supplement or fund their retirement. After hearing the life stories of each senior citizen she counsels, Karen is happy knowing that she was able to help them stay in their homes.

Money-Saving Moving Tips (cont'd)

Sell, Donate, Toss (cont'd)

movers and, ultimately, less cost to you. We suggest that you approach your upcoming move as an opportunity to get rid of items you may no longer use or need. There's no point in paying to move something that you'll only end up tossing out shortly after you settle in your new home. Are you moving to a place where you don't know many people and won't have a need for a guest bed right away? There are probably many things in your home you could sell, donate, or throw away if you think about each item or piece of furniture as a cost. This will help ensure that you only move your essential items.

Moving Your Stuff: DIY vs. Full-Service

While packing and moving your belongings on your own may cost less than paying for professional movers to do the job, you're not insured should anything happen during your move, and most moving companies won't cover damages to items that you packed yourself. However, if you pay for a professional company to do the packing, loading, and moving for you, most companies will reimburse you for any damages they cause to your items during the moving process.

If you still wish to move your family on your own, we're not here to tell you that you shouldn't. Whichever method you choose to relocate your family is a decision that must be made by each family individually. According to Uhaul.com, the popular moving and storage service, a 10' moving truck would cost you \$19.95 plus \$.99 per mile driven. Couldn't manage to downsize enough for a small truck? The other truck rental rates (subject to change) are \$29.95 plus \$.99 per mile for a 15' or 17' truck and \$39.95 plus \$0.99 per mile for a 20', 24', or 26' truck. You'll want to check your own auto insurance policy for potential coverage. If it doesn't extend to this situation, we recommend considering the rental company's insurance options.

Cambridge now offers

Student Loan Counseling



Call (888) 661-7910

Talk to a Student Loan Counselor about options that may be available to help with your federal student loans.

Not available in all states.

Is there someone in your life struggling with debt?

Be sure to tell them that a simple, safe solution is available. Please refer your



1-800-CAMBRIDGE
www.CambridgeCredit.org

Spring Cleaning (cont'd)

If you have children, you should especially consider having a yard sale in order to teach your children how the purchase and sale of goods works. Give them the opportunity to make change during a few of the smaller purchases. A \$2 item being purchased with a \$5 bill is the perfect opportunity to teach simple math and money skills.

Deep Clean

Cleaning out your refrigerator may already be on your to-do list this spring, but have you ever thought about the space behind your refrigerator? Over time, dust can collect around the coils on your refrigerator and cause it to run inefficiently. To alleviate this problem, you can pull your refrigerator away from the wall and use the soft brush attachment on your vacuum to gently clean the coils. We recommend that you briefly unplug your refrigerator and turn off the water while you're cleaning. This simple cleaning tip can extend the life of your refrigerator, increase its efficiency, and save you money in the long run.

After you've seen the difference that cleaning your refrigerator can make, see what other appliances in your home could use a little more than the normal cleaning. Have you checked your dryer lint compartment lately? You might surprise yourself with what you find deep down inside of it. Just because you can't see it doesn't mean there's no an effect on your home. Dryer lint has been known to cause house fires if the compartment isn't regularly emptied. Your family's bank account, and safety, is worth an extra look at your everyday appliances!

Please note: If you're unable to pull an appliance away from the wall or are unsure of the safest way to clean it, please consult the original manual or a relevant professional. Cambridge wants you to have a clean home and save money, but we don't want any of our readers to get hurt in the process!