



# Emergencies.

## They can come out of nowhere.

Without a buffer of cash, things can get tricky fast.

That's where an emergency fund comes to the rescue—it's the first of SmartDollar's Baby Steps to create a financial safety net for when the unexpected happens. Ideas on how to create your emergency fund:

### Make some extra money

- **Have a yard sale.** Most of us are rich with stuff and low on cash. So sell some of that stuff! Team up with a neighbor or friend and have a yard sale together.
- **Sell things online.** You can sell almost anything on the internet, and it's a great alternative if a yard sale just won't work for you. Just remember, people are looking for a deal so set your prices accordingly.
- **House or pet sit.** Offer your services as a house or pet sitter to people on vacation.
- **Be your own taxi.** You can set your own schedule and can make a few extra bucks or hundreds of dollars a week. Check out ride-sharing companies to see which might be best for you.
- **Make some deliveries.** You can sign up with a delivery service company to deliver packages, food, or just about anything. Even a few hours a week can help add to your savings.
- **Rent your stuff.** You don't have to sell something to make a profit on it. You can always rent it out: camping equipment, boats, ATVs and even that room over your garage.

### Save some money

- **Rethink your subscriptions.** Take 10 minutes to find recurring charges for subscriptions. Cancel any that you don't use or aren't essential to your family.
- **Call your car insurance company.** Go through your policy and make sure you aren't paying for more coverage than you need.
- **Cut back on soda.** Like, way back. Stop drinking soda and flavored soft drinks for 30 days. A \$1.50-a-day soda adds up to almost \$50 a month!
- **Brew your own coffee.** Your daily drive-through coffee is probably costing you somewhere between \$65-120 a month.
- **Switch up your shopping.** Discount grocery stores can offer up to 50% savings on your normal grocery bill. Even if you only save \$25 a week, you'll still have \$100 in your wallet at the month's end!
- **Buy generic.** Buying generic over-the-counter drugs can save you up to 73%. Savings on generic products aren't just for medicine either; try it for food and even toiletries. Why pay more for the same product?
- **Freeze your spending.** How much do you spend each week here and there? For one week, stop. Raid your pantry or fridge for meal ideas, avoid big stores and see how much you can save.



Go to [smartdollar.com/enroll/benekeith](https://smartdollar.com/enroll/benekeith) to learn more about saving for emergencies.