

EXPENSE TRACKER

You will want to track your expenses for at least a month in order to get an accurate accounting of how you spend your money. Use the EXPENSE TRACKER to write down each and every time you spend money. INCLUDE EVERYTHING! At the end of the month, add up your spending and replace any estimates in your budget with accurate figures. You may find that you have created a costly habit as shown in the examples below.

IS YOUR SPENDING KEEPING YOU FROM REACHING YOUR GOALS LIKE STEVE AND SARAH?

Sarah spends \$106.00 per month on her morning café latte, but replacing her special morning brew with regular coffee and splurging just once a week on a latte could save her a lot. Or better yet, if she bought a coffee pot and made her own coffee she'd save even more!

Steve withdrew \$20.00 from the ATM on Monday. Tuesday evening he needed an additional \$20.00 to pay for dinner. By Thursday, he was back at the ATM for another \$40.00 thinking this would cover him for the weekend. Unfortunately, Saturday night he was unable to go out with his friends because his cash was gone and his account was empty. Steve is unable to account for the \$80.00 he spent. He doesn't know where all his money goes. Do you know how and where you spend your money?

START TRACKING YOUR SPENDING TODAY AND START SAVING!

SAMPLE - SARAH'S EXPENSES

| Date | Description | Amount | Budget Category | Added to Budget x |
|--------|---|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 5/1/06 | Café latte | \$5.30 | Food | X |
| | Newspaper | \$1 | Miscellaneous | X |
| | Concert Ticket | \$43.50 | Entertainment | X |
| | Parking meter | \$0.50 | Transportation | X |
| 5/3/06 | Café Latte | \$5.30 | Food | X |
| | Soda and gum; threw change in charity cup | \$2 | Food | X |
| | Café latte | \$5.30 | Food | |
| | Newspaper | \$1 | Miscellaneous | |
| 5/6/06 | Café latte | \$5.30 | Food | X |
| | Lunch | \$7.35 | Food | X |
| 5/7/06 | Café latte | \$5.30 | Food | |

