

# How to Save on School Supplies

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School supplies can be expensive. Consider these tips to help you get your kids back to school without breaking the bank:

- Before you do your back-to-school shopping, make a simple inventory of the school supplies your children already have and what you need. That way, you won't purchase duplicate items, which may just get discarded.
- Make a budget and stick to it. Avoid the temptation and pressure to purchase unnecessary items or the "latest" trendy clothing and supplies.
- When buying new items, consider products that can be reused year after year like sturdy backpacks and refillable binders.
- Many schools reuse text books to save money and reduce waste. If your child's books are the same as in previous years ask friends and relatives, if they have used books your children can have.
- Buy used items from online resellers, garage sales or thrift stores. This is an inexpensive way to get supplies.
- In particular, try to find expensive items like sports equipment, scientific calculators, or musical instruments used.
- Cover your textbooks with cut-up grocery or shopping bags helps reduce waste and keeps your books in good condition. Use markers or colored pencils to give your covers unique and fun designs.
- Maintain newly purchased items. Students frequently lose small items like pens and pencils. Make a conscious effort to put school supplies in a safe place every day. This will not only save you money, it will avoid frustration from losing something important!
- Take advantage of sales on clothing and school supplies.
- Some states offer a "sales tax holiday" for a few days each year. This means that certain products won't be taxed during a set period of time. If your state offers a sales tax holiday, you may be able to save money on clothes, shoes, and other supplies.



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