

Budget Stretching Ideas

Ways To Save Money And Shop Smarter

(NAPSA)—As the economy forces consumers to get more out of what they have, more people are taking on do-it-yourself home improvement projects to help save money. Here are a few tips that will help you cut costs, extend the life of valuable equipment and become a smarter shopper for your next project around the house.

Restore Old Equipment

Before throwing out old equipment, first check to see if it can be easily cleaned or repaired. Often, with a little time and effort, you can help turn worn or weathered items back to being usable again. Have an old car battery? Create a paste of baking soda and water, and pour it on the terminal to help get rid of any corrosion and buildup. Does your equipment have metal parts that won't budge? Use a penetrant to help loosen stuck items like nuts and bolts and go back to using the gear you love!

Look for Deals

You know those coupons you

get in the mail each weekend? Don't just throw them out or let them expire; let them inspire your purchase decisions. Always carry a list with you to the home improvement store and stick to it, but be on the lookout for good deals—at garage sales, thrift stores and other bargain stores. You'll be amazed at what you can find that will help you get things done for cheap.

Get Connected

Many Web sites post special offers and provide ways to interact with other bargain hunters. WD-40® has even launched a social network—The Money-Saving Tool community—for people interested in saving money. The site—wd40uses.com—allows members to submit stories, photos and videos that show the creative ways they protect their investments and avoid paying for expensive repairs and replacement items. You can find more than 2,000 uses for WD-40 at wd40.com.