

Annual Financial Checkup

A proactive financial life is the key to sustainable, low-stress homeownership. While this checkup isn't a complete financial review, it's a great start.



Financial Goals

- Did you meet or make progress on last year's goals? If not, why?
- Were they too easy, too hard, or just right?
- Are they SMART? Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound?

Budget

Assess last year. Did you ...

- Review your budget monthly?
- Stick to it?
- Earn more than you spent?
- Put part of any surplus toward savings or debt?
- Investigate where you fell short and why?

Find savings

- Reviewing last year's spending, can you cut back anywhere?
- Have you shopped around for insurance, cable, and phone plans?
- Can you comfortably increase your home insurance deductible?
- Are you maximizing tax deductions? Consult a pro if unsure.
- Is your home air-sealed and insulated?

Increase income

- Are you due for a raise? Research how to make your case.
- Can you pay off debt? It's like getting a raise.
- Should you consider a part-time job for a while?

Plan ahead

- Have your financial needs changed?
- Will upcoming life changes affect your budget? A new baby or job ...
- Anything you need to save for? Home repairs, day care ...

Resources

[Monthly Budget Worksheet](#)

[Home Services Marketplace](#)

Homeownership Mini-Courses: [Home Energy Basics](#), [Home Maintenance 101](#)