

Ways To Save More

There's no better place than a retirement savings plan to help cut your investment costs and your tax bill. But where can you find extra cash to boost your savings without sacrificing your quality of life? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Replace your car insurance with a cheaper policy and add what you save to your retirement savings plan. Car insurance premiums vary greatly: It's possible to pay more than twice the price for the same coverage, depending on the insurer. Comparison-shop online. Additionally, learn about getting a potentially lower premium on your car insurance. Find out what premium discounts you're entitled to. Many companies cut their rates for people who have a three-year clean driving record, who have recently taken a defensive driving course, or who are over age 50 or 55. Cars with anti-theft devices, low annual mileage, airbags and anti-lock breaks also qualify for lower rates. And if you're driving an old car, check its current value in *Kelley Blue Book* at www.kbb.com. If collision and comprehensive coverage cost more than the car is worth, drop them.

2. Comparison-shop for other insurance and financial products. If you own a term life insurance policy that's several years old, check out current rates online. If you're in good health, you may qualify for a substantially lower premium. And don't forget to comparison-shop for your taxable investments!

4. Use only your own bank's ATMs, even if it means walking a few blocks out of your way. ATM charges range from \$1.50 to \$3, according to U.S. Public Interest Research Group. If those fees add up to just \$6 per week, you'd have another \$300 a year to contribute to your retirement savings plan.

It all adds up

By cutting these little-noticed expenses, you may be able to increase your retirement savings plan contribution by several hundred dollars or more a year. Over a 20-year period, that extra cash has the potential to earn thousands of dollars in your retirement account.

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