

Saving For Your Future Can Be A Breeze

At the age of 20, Phil thought it might be a good idea to save some money for his future. But he wanted and bought a sporty new car. At 30, he wanted to save some money, but most of his extra cash went to sports camps for his kids. At 35, Phil began to give serious thought to developing a savings plan, but he had just bought a house and so decided to put in new landscaping. When Phil was 45, saving was becoming a more urgent priority. But it was just too hard to say no to a luxury cruise in the Greek islands. At 59, nearing retirement age, Phil still didn't have a savings plan, but he had recently bought a pleasure boat.

All of us, it seems, are a little like Phil. No matter what our stage of life, immediate needs or impulsive spending can literally shortchange our future. And even when we do have some extra cash, it seems to disappear before we can sock it away.

That's why, to meet future financial goals, it's important to pay yourself first. The idea is simple: When you pay yourself first, you don't wait to find out how much money is left at the end of the month for you to put into savings. Instead, your future becomes a top financial priority; then you meet your other monthly obligations.

The good news is that paying yourself first can be easy. Contributions to your workplace retirement plan, for instance, are made directly from your paycheck; the process is automatic. And you need only contribute an amount that's comfortable for you. As life goes on and your financial needs change, a workplace retirement plan can be adapted to balance your current needs with your future savings goals.

No matter what your stage of life, your workplace retirement plan is a great way to pay yourself first.

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