

# Christmas Tips 2015

The festive season is fast approaching so Debt Action NI has put together some tips on how to manage your money better in order to reduce the post-Christmas debt and to ensure you have a Happy New Year.

- 1 BUDGET** - Draw up a budget of how much you are going to spend on each person/item and stick to it. Remember you still have to pay rent/mortgage and utility bills during the festive season so make sure you include these in your budget. See our helpful **Budget Planner** on our website [www.debtaction-ni.net](http://www.debtaction-ni.net).
- 2 MAKE A LIST** - Write a list of presents, groceries, clothing and any other expenses you will have over the Christmas period. Try not to make any impulse buys and **REMEMBER TO STICK TO YOUR LIST.**
- 3 AVOID HIGH INTEREST CREDIT** - Try to avoid payday loans as interest rates are extremely high. For example borrowing £400 from a high interest lender could accrue interest and fees of £167.70 within 40 days.
- 4 BE SAVVY** - Always research for the best deal on any gifts/goods before you buy. Online shopping can often offer the best value discounts. You should always check out sites which offer discount vouchers and use comparison websites.
- 5 NEW YEAR RESOLUTION** - Start planning for next Christmas by drawing up a budget for the year ahead to include saving for Christmas.

If you are worried about your finances and/or how to repay your debt get in touch with a Debt Action NI adviser, who will provide FREE, Confidential Money and Debt Advice on:

**0800 917 4607**

**Text "Action" to 81025 or visit [www.debtaction-ni.net](http://www.debtaction-ni.net)**