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Dana says, “Since I am self employed and my husband has been struggling to find full time work over the last year, I’ve found myself in search of ways to cut the fat from our household budget. For the most part, my motto throughout this process has been, *what’s the worst that could happen?*”



Our Week at a Glance

On Monday, I asked myself, “*What’s the worst that could happen* if I try to clean the red nail polish stain out of my carpet using Windex instead of paying for a visit from a professional carpet cleaner?” It already looked like I’d murdered someone in my living room, so it was doubtful the stain could get any worse. If Windex really did remove the stain, however, I’d have a clean carpet without spending any extra money. (Update: The stain is completely gone.)

On Tuesday, I asked myself, “*What’s the worst that could happen* if I try to remove the grease stain from my shirt with vinegar and dish soap?” Since the shirt already had a huge stain on the front, it wasn’t going back into my wardrobe rotation anytime soon. If the stain didn’t come out, I would have ended up with another rag for the kitchen. (Update: The shirt is completely clean.)

On Wednesday, I asked myself, “*What’s the worst that could happen* if I make this recipe using eggs with a sell by date from four weeks ago?” While I did ponder this for awhile, I decided it was highly unlikely we’d end up with anything other than a lousy casserole. (Update: Dinner was tasty and nobody had so much as a tummy ache when we were finished. The [USDA](#) also says this is perfectly safe.)

On Thursday, I asked myself, “What’s the worst that could happen if I shave my legs with store brand razors instead of the Gillette Venus razors I normally buy?” Stubble? A bit of razor burn? (Update: The answer ended up being bloody legs covered in Star Wars bandages – not an attractive look for a hot Midwestern summer!)

On Friday, I asked myself, “What’s the worst that could happen if I try to save money with home haircuts for everyone in my house?” I invest in matching hats for the entire family? I end up divorcing my husband because he accidentally snipped a huge chunk of hair off the back of my head? (Update: The child’s hair is fine, the husband’s hair is acceptable, and mine is somewhere in the middle range of haircuts I’ve received throughout my life. I am also still married.)

The Moral of the Story

Whether you're attempting stain removal or debating the merits of a DIY haircut, being willing to try new things and think outside the box is the best way to save money. At the end of my week, I ended up with clean carpets, a spotless shirt, a delicious casserole, bloody legs, and a mediocre haircut. Frugal living, like most other skills one develops, is clearly an ongoing process.

*This has been a guest post by Dana Hinders of Clarksville, IA.
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- *Alli Has Heart*

windex is the BEST for carpet cleaning. i use it on cat barf stains!

- *Hattrickks*

Really enjoyed reading this. It made me smile till the end of reading. Thanks for some great ideas, especially the Windex. Who knew? (lol not me)

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- *darlitechie*

Great use for windex, I will have to try it.

- *Heatherwhite413*

Its true, you have to get creative some times. For me whenever I get sick instead of running to the doctor i try to cure this naturally, i cured my athletes foot with apple cider vinegar and a ear infection with garlic. Save me a lot of money and I feel great!

- *amber*

haha loved it

- *<http://earningmytwocents.blogspot.com/> Alice @ EarningMyTwoCents*

I never thought of using Windex on carpet stains so thanks for the tip!

And I love the part about cooking with expired eggs. I often cook with foods that are past their expiration date but look and smell fine otherwise. Of course it depends on what it is, but its such a waste to throw away perfectly good eggs or milk just because it's a week expired. I just have to hide the old expiration dates from my husband lest he go on a fridge-purge and throws out everything that's one day expired. 😊

- *LaTrel*

Great UPLIFTING story! I will try the Windex in my truck. I use USED DRYER SHEETS to brush & refresh my fabric covered sofas AND to remove hair off the bathroom floors.

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- *Heather Hampton*

Great article! I'll have to try the vinegar/dish soap solution. I could really relate to Wednesday – I've done it plenty of times with no one getting sick, and food tasting great.

- *Dawnrdecker*

windex also will remove food stains from clothes.. something I learned while working in fast food resurants just spay scrub and wash!!

- *Brittontaylor05*

I really enjoyed reading this! It made me laugh. I am going to try some windex on my stains! Thanks for the tips.

- *Brittneekao*

That totally made me smile – great article!

- <http://twitter.com/tiredmommyof4> *Marissa Sladek*

I trimmed my kids' hair a few weeks ago. One of my kids looks like Llyod from Dumb and Dummer. Lesson learned on that one, I can trim my bangs well but not cut my sons' hair at all.

- *Tylahboobaby*

On board with everything except the eggs...four WEEKS past their date?!?! I'll be *splurging* on food within it's sell by date range, using the money I save on hba and cleaning supplies of course. Thanks for the windex tip though.

- *Maggie*

A heads up on eggs that are past their expiration. If you put the eggs in water and they sink they are perfectly fine. If they float it's time to throw them out.

The reason for this is because sulfur gases in the eggs cause them to rise (or float) in water.

- <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1323829669> *Cherie Firm Harper*

Will try the Windex for SURE!

- *Kerry Runner*

Just a tip: you can check if your eggs are still good by putting them in a bowl of water. If the egg floats, it's bad. I use eggs past their date quite often.

- *Beckysmileyfaceee*

i didnt know either, good thing i have a ton of coupons for it!

- <http://www.facebook.com/people/Bill-Richert/739092658> *Bill Richert*

I really enjoy reading this would be nice to see a coll um here about , I asked myself, “What’s the worst that could happen we all could learn a lot.

- *navywife247*

Thanks, I was just debating taking a risk today. But for right now, guess who is googling (swagbucking) Windex cleaning ideas. LOL

- *jennifer*

Thanks for the “smile”. So true, we have to think and be creative and money can be saved! My new “saver” cooking a months worth of food in two days....I’m scared, however, “what’s the worst that can happen”....

- *LD*

great article!!! :] ... windex and vinegar are the new additions to my “best friend” list lol

- *Beth*

Keep doing the haircuts...I’m a pro at it now! However, after two tries of my husband trying to do mine, I finally resorted to going to the local beauty school.

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- <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=149400881> *Lacy Coker*

Love it. Its so true. Frugal living is an ongoing process, and you learn how to afford the Venus razor with coupons and sales while cutting out the real waste.

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- *guest*

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- *AndreaR*

Ever since we saw My Big Fat Greek Wedding, my husband has tried Windex on everything, including the carpet. Other things that works on stains in clothing...if it's a food stain – ketchup, mustard, tomato sauce – try pre-treating with dish detergent, add powdered dishwasher detergent to your whites to brighten, foaming carpet cleaner helps to get out color bleeds (as long as you don't dry them!), DO NOT use hairspray on an ink stain unless you intend to wash it IMMEDIATELY – actually, if it is color safe, alcohol hand sanitizer works wonders, but again, wash immediately. My motto – Never be afraid to try anything once, you'll either fail, or the result will be wonderful. Just remember...hair grows back! :O)

- *Jackie*

If you're wondering about whether eggs are still good, I put them in a bowl of water – the floaters are bad. I buy farm fresh and always test my eggs this way.

- *Jackie*

I am seriously going to have to have some windex right beside my other stain fighters!

- *stephanie*

This sounds EXACTLY like my house 😊

- <http://growinggrandbergs.blogspot.com/phalloeun>

I can relate to the haircutting thing! The more you do it the better you get, so don't give it up! You can search youtube for tutorials. I use to spend \$\$\$ every 6 weeks to get my hair cut and colored. Not anymore. It gives me a wonderful sense of pride to be able to cut my own hair!!!

- http://pulse.yahoo.com/_BOV3TQLVGOYAZ7MRX3YSA4AJ3I BrianaA

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- *Anonymous*

I just paid \$21.87 for an iPad 2-64GB and my boyfriend loves his Panasonic Lumix GF 1 Camera that we got for \$38.76 there arriving tomorrow by UPS. I will never pay such expensive retail prices in stores again. Especially when I also sold a 40 inch LED TV to my boss for \$657 which only cost me \$62.81 to buy.

Here is the website we use to get it all from, BidsFirst. com

- *Candice*

Loved this! I especially love the fact that it seems like she will be continuing to use Gillette Venus razors... That is one thing I cannot live without (and believe me, I've tried!

Too bad the replacement cartridges are so expensive! It's usually cheaper just to buy brand new razors (after coupons, clearance/sale prices, ECB, RR, SCR, etc.). My house must have at least 10 Venus razors floating around, right from the original Venus to the Venus Embrace. Anybody have tips on getting the cartridges for cheap??

- *Nikki*

My "what's the worst that could happen" cleaning tip: If you have a stain on colored clothing that just won't come out any other way, try including it in a white load you're using bleach in anyway. If the shirt is unwearable in public because of the bad stain, then what's the worst that could happen? Colors may fade, but sometimes they don't! And even if they do, it probably looks better faded than stained.

- *Alla*

Such a wonderful story. Enjoyed it a lot. Thank you KCL. I came to know abt the windex from the movie "My big fat greek wedding". It's a nice funny movie and they use windex a lot in their family. When I read it, I could reate it to my own self. I am an RN but did my nursing from abroad, so I have to sit for an exam to get my RN license but so far I am a stay home mom and do almost everything myself. My husband was laid off from his job 2 years ago and we started an online business and couponing. We are always grateful to God for what he gives us, even in this tough time. So he is busy most of the time with his business and I take care of my toddler & the house and I learnt repairing and fixing so many things around the house by browsing the internet. The DIY's on youtube & other sites are amazing and save us lots and lots of bucks. I would never ever pay the professional servies unless it's something really bad & I don't know how to fix it, otherwise DIY is the best way to save couple bucks. By looking at the picture I thought it was abt. a haircut for kids. LOL. Btw on Sunday I shaved my toddler's head myself & it took only 25 mins. My neighbour saw my son & asked me this weekend to shave her preschooler's head too. Can't wait for the weekend to come 😊

- *Jessica S.*

I like it! I have done the similar run through in my mind when trying new things and mentally go over best-case/worst case scenarios. lol =)

- *Mrs Breazeale*

Dollar General had the cartridges on the clearance b1g1 free table the other day...they had the Venus razor on clearance for \$3.00 not b1g1 and I had a coupon for \$5.00 off razor when you buy cartridge so I ended up paying \$3.00 for two boxes of cartridges and one razor...

- *Blankwhiteframes*

That is hilarious!!! I love the part about the razors. Its true cheap razors don't work as well.

Jen

- *Nikki*

Wait, will Glass Plus work as well as Windex??(glass plus is sold at the dollar tree!)

- *Crystal*

I never have heard of windex for carpet stains....I got a few to try this on!!! I also been cutting my kids hair!!! It usually turns out pretty well and my husband now shaves his head. Saves us about 40 bucks!!!! So my new favorite saying is going to be....”whats the worst that could happen” LOVE IT

- <http://www.facebook.com/jlmcewen> Jennifer Lynn McEwen

get clippers with the guides much easier i do my sons and my husbands hair with them

- Jenn

Anyone have suggestions on how to remove stains from couches? As in food and drool (baby drrol)?

- <http://twitter.com/CouponingForSix> Niki Hampton

Love it! I haven't gone to the home cleaning products, but may do that when my stockpile of cleaning products is out...well before then for testers. lol I need to figure out how to get Sharpie off the walls, door, door jams...you get the idea. My hubby is doing our boys' haircuts with clippers. The first time around... not so much, but he's getting better. I actually decided to grow my hair out so I am going every couple of months for shaping instead of every three weeks (short hair is high maintenance).

Good job and keep asking yourself “What's the worst that could happen?” lol

- <http://twitter.com/CouponingForSix> Niki Hampton

I am going to have to try this. Thanks for the tips!

- <http://www.facebook.com/danica.m.stone> Danica Stone

Seriously! I had a sty a few years ago. Everything I read about it said that the only thing doctors could do would be, maybe, if they thought it was necessary, to puncture it with a needle and let the goop out. It said it was a painful process, not always an option, and, of course, would cost money.

Then I looked up natural remedies. There were a ton, but one of the most-mentioned ones was to hold a slice of potato on the sty until it drained of its own accord. I bought a potato, went home, and spent maybe half an hour or an hour holding a potato slice on my eye while I read a book. Result: the sty drained perfectly and the redness was gone by morning, and I've never had another one.

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- <http://www.facebook.com/jackie.davis85> Jackie Davis

I love frugal living! I am a SAHM but I also run our family business from home (it doesn't pay me yet) and my husband is a shop manager at a computer help store. We only bring in approximately \$24K a year if even that. So I cut my son and daughters hair. Daughter gets a straight trim or if I want layers, I pay \$5 and have the girls at our cosmetology/beauty school give her a haircut. My son and husband just shave their heads every other month. We split livestock with friends or family and we butcher/package/freeze our own meat. We have a very small “box” garden (8 sq. ft) where we grow some herbs and veggies and we go to the farmers market for fresh in season fruits. I re-use my old sheets and make reuseable shopping

bags and when denim and clothing is too torn to re-use or donate, we scrap it and make quilts or dog pillows to sell at local farmers markets or crafts fairs. I am of course a couponer, so I save money that way and we have amenities we used to go without and foods that when I was a kid we were too poor to afford. I google a lot of home remedies like using a castor oil soaked rag as a drawing agent for pilonidal cysts, or a combination of dishsoap rubbing alcohol and water to kill ants and even eucalyptus oil around windows, doors and baseboards to keep out ants, spiders and other bugs. I use mouth wash as a mosquito repellent sprayed on the posts and beams of our porch when we have an outdoor barbeque.

- <http://www.facebook.com/jackie.davis85> Jackie Davis

Mr. Clean magic erasers will take out sharpie from walls and doors and such

- *Rebecca*

I am seriously going to try this! My husband gets styes often. And the last one on his eye he had surgically removed because it was causing issues with his vision

- *Heather P.*

This was so uplifting! It has been a hard time with so many of my friends and Family and moving back to Alaska has proven challenging since coupons are A-hard to get and B- the rules here are not the same as in the lower 48! C-last we only have 3 stores, Safeway, Fred Meyers and Walmart.... so learning to coupon in a small town with no big city is going to be hard, but after reading this... im not so worried!

- *Lezlieb*

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- *MnnysSunshine*

Does that mouthwash thing really work?

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- *Rebecca*

oh i like the mouthwash idea! Especially since i can get that for free!

- *Twelve0six03*

Definitely trying this as well!!

- *Deidrasky*

I have always used hairspray. Sometimes you have to soak it down and be ready to catch it in case the ink decides to run. If you are trying to get crayola marks off the wall take a lighter and hold it almost directly on the crayola mark and let it get hot then it should wipe off...

- *Laura*

Great post! Thanks for keepin' it real 😊

- *guest*

If you are unsure about eggs, place them in a a bowl of water. If they float, they are bad.

- *Julie*

Thank you for the reminders that problems are not as bad as they seem, we all need them once in a while!

- *Candice*

Aww, we don't even have a Dollar General in my state! Actually it looks like Vermont is the only state in New England that does!

- *Toa*

This was so funny and uplifting! Good to hear that you are not alone. Everyone goes through hard times. Thanks KCL!

- *Katie C.*

This is great to know!! I am potty training my daughter and we are out of carpet cleaner! Whoohoo!!

- *EGS*

All of those things except the eggs are worth "experimenting" – but possibly contracting food poisoning? Blergh, I'd rather throw the eggs out and just buy new ones!

Also, good to know about Windex!

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Also, good to know about Windex!

- *Heatherwhite413*

Its really amazing, I had a really bad ear infection and nothing was making it go away and as a recent college graduate I am broke. So I was like something natural has to work so I looked up some remedies and it says slice a garlic clove(and being Italian I ALWAYS have garlic in my fridge)... I wrapped a slice of garlic in tissue paper put it in my ear for 15 min and next day and days after my ear is feeling amazing. Mind you this works for any ear infection as well as children's so try it !

- *EGS*

I also will admit to spending \$40 for a haircut every six weeks. One of my few indulgences.

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- *Couponsweetie*

I laughed so hard about the razors because I just thought the same thing on Saturday... I used the cheaper razors that i got for a steal and I will never do that again. I ended up with bloody legs and razor burn so bad I didn't want to wear shorts!!! I will be donating the rest of the cheap razors and be looking for more coupons for the Venus Razors. I have always bought the Venus disposable and never had a problem. Thanks for the post:)

- *Roseanne*

love this! Awesome use of windex. And another odd thing for around the outside of the home.....brake cleaner for your car....use it as a wasp killer. I use it all the time and have them drop right out of the air dead. It's great and has a spray of about 6 ft...nice when your allergic.

- *Clippingfun*

I love all the money saving ideas. The only thing i ask is if you are still paying to get your haircut... PLEASE tip your stylist. I have cut hair for over 13 years now and have worked at all kinds of different salons, but the bottom line is for the most part, hairstyist get paid a small hourly or a commission (minus the cost of products). I know it is more money out of your pocket but we rely on tips. Over the years I have been asked several times, What is a good tip on a haircut? If i get anywhere from 2-5 on a haircut great, and if I am spending 2 hours to color/highlight/perm and a haircut, 5-10 is great. I totally understand if you truly do not have the extra money to tip but if you do We appreciate it very much. (same goes for restaurant or any other service employee)

- *Tracy*

You can make your own "Windex" by using diluted ammonia in water. I use about 1/2 cup ammonia in a quart size spray bottle then fill to top with water. Ammonia is just a few dollars per gallon and you can make years worth of window cleaner from it. You can also use it to clean showers and sinks. Windex is basically ammonia diluted in water with fragrance and coloring added.

- http://pulse.yahoo.com/_EUYJJPO27J4TRWIB7SQELOX3VI Renee

so excited about trying the windex on some stains! and I started home haircuts for my boys too!!! hubby insists on his barber and a friend now cuts mine for free so 3/6 is pretty good my daughter is 10 months old and no one is touching her hair! when I went to cut the boys I swear my thought was "What's the worst that can happen? if I screw up I buzz it down to all one setting lmao!"

- *Diana*

I used to be a hairdresser and my husband is an automotive technician with both those trades it saves us alot, then add in couponing!!! Love the new ideas! Especially all the uses for Windex!

- *Jennifer*

another good home remedy for stys. Tea bags. Just put a tea bag in a bowl of warm water, let steep for a few minutes. Then place on eye for about 10 min. Do a few times a day. We have done this for years. The last time I had to do this was 2 months ago. My son had a sty and it was gone in 3 days.

- *Vic*

Wow, a bunch of good advice/tips I never knew. Thanks Everybody

- *Anonymous*

I just paid \$21.87 for an iPad 2-64GB and my boyfriend loves his Panasonic Lumix GF 1 Camera that we got for \$38.76 there arriving tomorrow by UPS. I will never pay such expensive retail prices in stores again. Especially when I also sold a 40 inch LED TV to my boss for \$657 which only cost me \$62.81 to

buy.

Here is the website we use to get it all from,

<http://bit.ly/qPWexq>

- *Jennifer*

wow, this sound like us. Husband lost his job in 2009, finally found another one almost a year later, but for half the pay. I still haven't found a job, but I homeschool our son, so I can only work evenings. Needless to say we lost our house, everything we own is in storage. I cut mine, my husbands and sons hair. I use our cleaning supplies for things other than stated. I finally learned how to coupon and have a significant stock pile of most all products.

- *Lea*

OMG my husband is so bad that when the milk is getting CLOSE to the expiration date he will throw it out! If only I could get him to at least wait until the expiration date even that would be a "win". I have even asked him if he think the milk is smart enough to know what the date is! I love him anyway though.

- <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1512758228> *Megan Bowman*

If you think your eggs might be a bit old, you can use this simple trick to see if they are still edible. Put the eggs in a pot filled with room temperature water. If an egg floats, that means the bacteria content inside is too high. Any eggs that sink can be eaten!

- *Beth*

Excellent advice. I can't tell you the number of times our family doctor (actually a personal friend) called to ask how to cure something naturally. One time he had cut himself with a chainsaw and was taking antibiotics, but it was not getting better. My husband told him to put raw honey on it, and within 2 days it was healed. I am nearly 60 and have been using natural healing for decades. I virtually never go to the doctor because I am never sick. I give God all the praise for His pharmacy of herbs and the knowledge of how to use them.

- *Beth*

You could try a lint roller or just tape.

- *Lea*

I assumed everyone tipped their hairdresser. We tip 20% for whatever service we are getting and whether it is at the salon, beauty school, restaurant....it is hard work for little pay. A good tip is given in return for good service. We don't have a lot of extra money but if we are going to splurge I figure the tip into the budget.

- *Clippingfun*

Thank you! and surprising no. I live in MO and moved to the branson area a few years back. We have clients that drive up from AR and 90% of the time Arkansas clients do not tip.. I dont understand it. I have also had waitress as clients and still no tip, that one bothers me the most..lol.

I would also like to say that I love refilling my ink cartridge! It is so cheap and so easy! Everytime I refill it I think of all the great coupons I have printed that saves us even more!

- *Khenkels*

Would love to hear what you or someone on here use for acne on their tweens/teens.

- *Lilymal88*

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- *Clippingfun*

I have heard that Paul Mitchell tea tree bar soap is really good. I do not have acne but I do(did) have really oily skin and I have found that neutrogena (or the store brand) works GREAT. I know it is not a cheap home remedy but you could also look for coupons or clearance racks.

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- *Shelly*

What a great post! 😊
Thanks KCL!!!!

- *Clippingfun*

I am a hair stylist and my husband cuts my hair all the time. He even foil highlighted it once and was actually one of the best highlights I have had. I had an old step by step dvd laying around and we watched it a few times and away he went. If figured "whats the worst that can happen" if he messed up I had a darker shade I could have put over it.

- *Stephstan22*

I have been cutting my family's hair (including my own) for years. I always watch how to videos on youtube to give me inspiration. I was out of town last month visiting family and my husband had to go get his hair cut from a professional. He was so disappointed that he said he will never go somewhere to get it cut ever again.

- *Khanhuma*

very true .here in florida most of the haircuts are 15- to 20 dollars as compare to chicago where we use to pay 5 dollars. now since last 2 years i cut my son n hubbys hair n my hubby trimmed my hair .

- *Khenkels*

thanks!

- *Tiffany*

thank you for posting this, it made my day 😊 I often do things like this and my husband and kids think i am crazy!

- *Stephstan22*

Same with my husband. He came home and had me fix it. Now he tries to get his friends to come to me instead of professionals. Save a lot of money for my family of 3.

- *Stephstan22*

I agree, I watch youtube videos for inspiration almost everytime I cut my hair or my son's hair. One of the best feelings in the world is when someone says, "I love your hair cut, where did you go to get it cut?"

- *Guest*

You can also use Lysol aerosol spray or hand santizer to remove Sharpie permanent markers.

- *Maureen*

Loved your story from the beginning to end. Bless your heart. Hair usually grows pretty fast, hope that is the case for you.

Take care

moecurt@yahoo.com

- *Amanda*

Wow, I've never heard of that either. I guess in MA, tipping is expected...for everything. I went to a chain massage place for a free massage (\$40 value)...and then they asked me what percentage I wanted to tip on the FULL price which was like \$80. That got me really mad that they asked for a tip and they wanted me to tip on a different value than I thought I was getting. And the massage wasn't very good. But for a haircut...always 20%.

- http://pulse.yahoo.com/_2XAIEF5RCTKK23KNSMG6VQWFTA *Leticia Fletcher*

I just paid \$22.85 for an iPad 2-64GB and my girlfriend loves her her Panasonic Lumix GF 1 Camera that we got for \$38.78 there arriving tomorrow by UPS. I will never pay such expensive retail prices in stores again. Especially when I also sold a 40 inch LED TV to my boss for \$625 which only cost me \$62.81 to buy. Here is the website we use to get it all from, CéntHub.com

- <http://www.facebook.com/people/Diane-Tanner-Phelan/100000553990956> *Diane Tanner Phelan*

I have to agree. I just ate the last 3 eggs out of the carton that was dated back in May! They were fine! I usually have 4 – 6 month old eggs in my fridge. Unless the yoke is sticking to the shell, I'll eat them! People need to lighten up on the expiration dates! 😊

- *Sharma*

I color my hair and my husband does the highlights... all from a box from the store. We've done this for years... people are always surprised to find out my husband did my highlights. I always call it date night. A good netflix or redbox movie and haircoloring. It's a great date. He also has cut my sons hair (and his

own) for years. We buy a new hair razor every two or three years... at \$14-\$20... we save hundreds on haircuts. We do pay for haircuts for myself and my daughter. (he's talented but not THAT talented).

- *76 Georgia*

LOVED this!! great tips and witty commentary 😊

- *Anonymous*

good

- *Lucy*

I cut my boyfriend's hair! I'm getting a lot better, and the haircut is passible especially since he always rushes me to finish like he doesn't care! I've cut it about 5xs now! At the very least I save \$15 plus tip for each haircut bc I live in SoFla

- *Sue*

Please store your Ammonia in a safe place. My mom almost died from it. It sprung a leak and she didnt know. In the morning she could barely get a small breath.

- *JV*

loved it! whole article was worth my time.

- *Eeyore325*

That really got me thinking....all I can say is thank you for posting that. You've changed my thought process a little bit!

- *Wendy Grosse*

Awesome....didn't know about the windex. I save alot of money by using white vinegar in my dishwasher and washing machine....it's very inexpensive compared to the dishwasher cleaners at \$4-\$5 a pop and the inside of the dishwasher and washing machine sparkle. Just a few glugs of vinegar and let it run through a cycle. Also, when I was a teenager and had acne problems, I used to put a dab of Desitin on the blemishes and they would go away in a day or two.

- <http://www.facebook.com/people/Angelica-Marie-Medina/1411236866> *Angelica Marie Medina*

great story!

- *KCristobal*

Had no idea about the Windex.

This is the way I live...always looking for ways to cut the budget!

If my boys' haircuts turn out bad, we go straight for the buzz cuts. 😊

- *Anonymous*

I just p a i d \$21.87 for an i P a d 2-64GB and my boyfriend loves his Panasonîc Lumîx GF 1 Camera that we got for \$38.76 there arriving tomorrow by UPS.I will never pay such expensive retail prices in stores again. Especially when I also sold a 40 inch LED TV to my boss for \$657 which only cost me \$62.81 to buy.

Here is the website we use to get it all from,

<http://bit.ly/qPWexq>

NOW 100% WORKING

- *Ashley*

LOL! I love this post I will be trying windex on our puppy stains (very happy to find something to fix those without renting the expensive machines) I love my dogs but puppy training has mad our carpet horrible! Thanks for the idea.

I agree with the store brand razors too. When we get the lesser quality razors they go in the donation box for the church!

What a fun great post!

- *Tracy*

I do store it safely. Usually the household variety ammonia is already diluted so it is safer. The one thing you NEVER want to do is mix ammonia (or Windex) with bleach. This is a very toxic combination!!

- *Dollar_and_centsmom*

I have an extremely hyper sense of smell so I use diluted vinegar instead of ammonia and it works just as well as the name brand glass cleaners.

- *Autumn Bohman*

This was so cute!! I really needed a good chuckle, and it is so true whats the worst that could happen 😊

- *Autumn Bohman*

This was so cute!! I really needed a good chuckle, and it is so true whats the worst that could happen 😊

- *Gemadz*

Sorry can you tell me what a sty is? I love natural remedies but I am not sure what this is.

- *Phoebegu25*

I wish my milk would just get near expiration

- *Phoebegu25*

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- <http://www.facebook.com/cal1st0> *Kayla Marshall*

I recently started cutting my own hair after a friend told me how easy it is. I have done it twice. Actually, my husband helps because my hair is too long for me to reach the ends.

If you want/have a long layered look then all you have to do is put your hair in a pony tail on the very top of your head. Make sure the front hair is in the front of the pony tail, the back in back, etc. Using good scissors, cut straight across the top. You can cut as little or as much as you want. Try a little at first. If you want to see my results check out my albums on FB. Its under "First Self Haircut."

- *Clippingfun*

As a stylist, this is how i cut my layers. Same idea as the rubberband but I keeps the hair spread out, i wet my hair then flip my head upside down and comb all my hair straight towards the floor, then I point cut (

cut in at an angle) and chop as much or as little as i want... With point cutting it you will not have any blunt lines that might show up if you cut straight across or have it bunched up...Just my 13years of cutting advice. I also have my husband the just cut around the bottom edge. Keep up the good haircuts!

- *Angela*

Holy crap I just had a flashback to my mom doing this when I was little. I just assumed she was a witch. I was quite upset when I didn't get any magical powers as I grew older. Still kinda am, actually.

- *Vmarg*

I really like your "can do" attitude. You really can do anything with an attitude like that. I have always been frugal minded, even since I was a kid. One area that is a pet peeve of mine is hiring so called professionals and paying them a lot of money to do something instead of doing it yourself. I would never call a pro just for one nail polish stain. On the other hand, I would never have my husband cut my hair, instead I am a ok with a discount hair stylist instead of the \$100 hair cuts, I only pay \$30. However, it took me a long time to learn that in some situations doing something yourself can do more harm than good. For example, using things like vineger to clean stains may get out the stain but does more harm than good in the long run. I'll give you an example, a friend of mine was told that she could save money with a home cleaner recipe that included vineager. She used this concoction on her marble floors. She was about 2 yards in when she noticed that the concoction was turning her white marble into yellow marble. Thank god she didn't continue on to do the whole floor. She had to pay \$200 to professionally refinish that section of her floor. She was so angry that she did what she did to save a few bucks, which ended up costing her a huge chunk of money. A simple example, sometimes it really pays to spend a few dollars extra on the good detergent for the sake of your expensive clothes, than to buy whatever cheap stuff is on sale or has a coupon. I actually bought some cheap toothpaste with coupons and I was using it for about 1 month when I realized that my teeth were hurting all over. I switched back to the more expensive toothpaste immediately, because \$100's of dentist bills, lost time working and hassle is not worth \$3 saved per month. Now, when there are coupons on the brands that I am loyal to, I am happy to use them. But beware the hidden costs of DIY and buying cheap stuff.

- *Mannyschevitz*

You can also use used dryer sheets to scrub the walls in your shower to remove soap scum...;)

- *Mannyschevitz*

I have a friend who uses garlic gels (vitamin style). She punctures them and squirts them down into her childrens ears. Works every time and cheap too! You can usually find them at the Dollar store. The kids smell like spaghetti, but they feel great!!

- *Autumn*

I know this will sound weird, but Neosporin works GREAT! My daughter developed acne in college after escaping blemish-free from her high school years. She tried everything, including some expensive prescription stuff her grandmother took her to get.... then I read online that Neosporin works, so I told her about it, and her skin is now great! It doesn't take much, either — a tube will last quite awhile. Good luck!

- *Autumn*

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- *Kim S.*

This article made me laugh, thanks! Like so many said, never heard of using windex on the carpet. I'm definitely going to try that, although I'm not sure our living room carpet can be saved thanks to my 3 year old being a major spitter-upper his first 18 months. We "cleaned" those stains every night, but they've never gone away. And the carpeting was brand-new, although you'd never know it now. And now I'm actually considering trying to cut my own hair. I haven't been to the hairdresser in a couple months and keep thinking about the cost and trying to find the time to go. I'm the only one who pays for haircuts in the house. My husband hates having hair so he shaves it off completely every couple weeks...he wishes he'd go bald, but he doesn't even have a receding hairline. And my 3 year old son, I cut his hair myself. As for our infant son, well he doesn't have any hair yet, so nothing needed there, but when he does get hair, I'll be cutting his as well.

- *Marylday*

Try the magic erasers for the sharpie on the wall.

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My son uses mouthwash on his face and since starting this he hasn't had any pimples. I use it on areas where I used to get blackheads and no longer have that problem.

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- *guest*

Most likely it's because her diet changed. Acne on the sides of the face is from diet, acne on the chin is hormonal. Also Splenda gives acne and things with added chemicals (google it, I was surprised when I did)

- *Jezz_luezz*

I ran out of wipes today and are low on funds and I remember reading an article on saving money on wipes. Cut up some paper towels, use the bin for wipes, pour baby body wash, baby oil and water. Soak the towels in the mix and leave in the bin for the next use. Definitely worked i was amazed and i think it cleans better then the actual wipes.

- *Jezz_luezz*

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- *me*

i know what u mean milk is half gone by the time i get home with it and get it into the fridge!

- http://pulse.yahoo.com/_M6LBUQIOW2P7XWHOHGHB2K7B4 Chaney H

You know the little whitehead acne bumps that people get on their face? A sty is like that but in your eye (typically on the eyelid at the root of your eyelashes).

- *Becca*

Instead of dumping out the nearly expired milk, store it in the freezer. You can then defrost and use the milk in a baking recipe when needed. It's perfect for using in muffins, waffles, and biscuit batters.

- *Libby*

They sell garlic oil capsules in the pharmacy. My mother would pop one open and drip into our ear. A little safer than a clove and also more potent. Nothing works better and so what if your burps smell a bit after



- *Libby*

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- *Libby*

If you don't store your eggs in the door of your fridge they can last up to 3 months. My grandparents who are old farmers and have their own chickens don't even refridgerate theirs. They sit in a bowl ont he counter until used. But they wouldn't last three months like that 😊

If it's bad you'll know.

- <http://twitter.com/zebmonkey> Jeannie Rush

i have family than can do a better job on the haircut than i would b able. My son just likes it very short. he knows it's probably the only haircut he will get all year. (we make him grow it over his ears in the winter to prevent ear aches which also saves \$\$ cuz i don't have to buy an antibiotic for an ear ache)

Thanks for the tip about the stain removal.

- *Kris*

when my sister wants a layered look, she puts her hair up in a ponytail and then cuts straight across, which creates layers once it is down. I've never tried it, but it looks great.

- *Barb*

I love all the comments! Here are mine. 1) I cut my hubby's hair regularly. Just had a short learning curve at the beginning, etc. Then it's no big deal. He's still afraid to try to cut mine. Instead I just get it cut fairly short at a salon every 3 months or so, and then let it grow while just trimming bangs myself in between salon visits. Saves a few \$\$ that way. 2) Since he won't trim my hair, I talked him into trading pedicures wwith me. That is still a "work in progress".. but he's showing improvement! I 3) My MotherInLaw's favorite home remedy for stomach bug/ flu bug/ diahrrea issues was to use a LAXATIVE! Seriously. ExLax was her "drug of choice" when anyone had such a malady. Her reasoning was that the problem already existed, and she just wanted to hurry things along and get it over with. I was rather desperate once, and she talked me into trying it. Made a believer out of me! I'm sure it would not be the choice for everyone, but I was certainly surprised at my rate of recovery!! I now include it on my own list of tried & true home remedies.

- *Vmarg*

This is a valid technique but it's not 100% accurate. If something is way past the expiration date, you can't just float it in water and say "oh it's perfectly fine." The way I think about it is, if you try to save a few dollars on questionable food, even \$50 or \$100, it doesn't come close to the cost of one doctor's visit, one

medication, or God forbid literally \$1000's in emergency room costs. Most people don't know this and should know this, so I will do everything I can to publicize this fact. MOST ER'S WILL CHARGE YOU BETWEEN \$1000-2000, MOST CHARGE \$1600 JUST TO SAY "HELLO." In other words, if you receive no treatment whatsoever, no medication, no tests, nothing, you are being charged this fee just for being at the ER. You will get this and everything else they charge on top, including the separate \$300 charge just for seeing a doctor, even if the doctor does nothing except check you out. That is why I think of an ER as the most expensive place in the USA, even a high priced lawyer's office does not compare. So, everyone should know these facts when taking chances with DIY projects and questionable foods that can make you sick. You would have to coupon for a whole year to make up for one mistake, so don't make it in the first place.

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- *Vmarg*

I have seen professional haircoloring, not the top shelf salons ofcourse, but from a regular salon, and from the box coloring on the same person. I can't tell the difference, in some cases I can testify that the box coloring looks better. Some salons do use cheap dyes, much worse than the brand name dyes you can get at the store, so better results. I think the most important thing is to not lock yourself into a high maintenance regimen. For example, if you highlight your hair blond, when it's brown, you just locked yourself into spending a minimum of \$120 every 5 weeks. I call that money down the drain. The same thing with beauty products, companies entice you with one coupon because they want to lock you into using the expensive face cream or shampoo every month. Wasted money. There was a sale on Loreal shampoo, it came to about \$3 per bottle. I said to myself why bother buying it when the \$1.50 or \$2 shampoo works just fine for me.

- *Kim S.*

Per the USDA's standards on their website, the eggs are still acceptable to use 3-5 weeks past the date on the carton, as long as you store them properly.

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