




Christmas Top 40 Tips

1. Don't pay babysitters – instead get young couples who are thinking about having kids to 'rent' yours for the evening. They get to see what it will be like and you get paid
2. Tell everyone that you'll be away for Christmas, hide until December 28th then buy presents in the sale
3. Buy whole milk, water it down and put it in skimmed bottles – it retains that same delightful watery almost milk-like taste
4. Train your dog to beg from strangers so you don't need to buy dog food
5. Send kids round to friends' houses around dinnertime. This works best if they practice looking hungry first
6. Invest in the recipe book "Harvesting roadkill" (I particularly like the following tip on the occasion not to harvest "...either due to excessive flatness or length of time it's been baking in the sun")
7. Save money on presents this year by telling your kids that tonight's meteor shower is Santa burning up on re-entry
8. Brew your own festive beer and wine. You'll save money and you'll save on housing costs when you spend six months in rehab paid for by the NHS
9. A few peanuts and a squirrel trap – Christmas lunch sorted
10. Hang onto the outside of the bus (p.s this works in India)
11. Cars consume more fuel reversing from cold so choose the far empty corner of a car park so you can drive in forwards and out forwards. If someone parks in front of you, wait for their return and explain politely but with a suitably raised voice that their thoughtless behaviour replicated over a year would cost you...at least 5p probably
12. Save your wee in empty milk cartons (see tip No.3), water it down and use it as high nitrate fertiliser. Double save on fertiliser and water
13. Save money on carpeting by gluing a square of carpet onto each shoe
14. Turn your thermostat down to minus 4 degrees. Save money by selling your fridge, boiler and radiators



15. Read the Daily Mail – you'll get so worked up that your blood pressure will go up thereby increasing body temperature and reducing the need for heating

16. Maximise the potential of cats. Train one to sit on your knee and the other to drape itself around your neck to save on heating (this may sound far-fetched but I have two cats who do exactly this...but so far...never at the same time!!!)

17. Use carpet cast-offs – multi-coloured flooring is so next year daaarling

18. Use the Daily Mail instead of toilet paper

19. Dangle those 'Magic Tree' air fresheners from your artificial tree to recreate that authentic pine smell

20. Save money on that expensive Amazon Kindle – simply place a book on the windowsill and read through the glass

21. Take a bath once a year and save £30 – take it with a friend and save double

22. Go carol singing but cut to the chase and just stick out your hand and ask for cash. It saves everyone that awkward 'donation' moment

23. Encourage your kids to study media at University - under the new 23k threshold they will never have to pay back their tuition fees

24. Worried about winter injuries? Wearing thick socks over your shoes will prevent you from slipping on ice, right up to the point when you're sectioned

25. Teach your children the 'real meaning' of Christmas to avoid that embarrassing Christmas Day disappointment

26. White Lightning Cider is a fraction of the cost of Waitrose wines

27. Think of shopping at LIDL as discovering a bijou Continental Market none of your friends know about

28. Pret A Manger has a throw away policy of day old food. Rummage through the bins for free packed lunches

29. Save time and money on cinema visits. Despite initial impressions, they do fancy each other and will get together

30. Get child concession at your local gym by turning up in just your underpants and a vest

31. Save time and money buying and decorating a Christmas tree this year, simply move your sofa to the town centre

32. Save money on buying an expensive Sat-Navigation System by arriving a bit late and apologising

33. Snow compacted in balls and thrown at friends makes for a fine winter game – also pouring athlete's foot powder over the top of the TV will give the living room a real festive feel

34. An old toilet seat makes a cost-effective and 'futuristic' alternative to a Christmas wreath

35. Save a fortune on car insurance by simply not buying your first Corsa until you're 47

36. Save money on an Xbox Kinect by getting your kids to stand in front of the TV and copy whatever they are watching.

37. Teach your kids all about the Big Society by getting them to organise and buy their own presents this year

38. A loose paving slab in front of Dixons' shop window is a rudimentary Wii Fit at a fraction of the price

39. Save flushing up to 50,000 litres of water a year by using cat litter instead of a toilet

40. A bottle of shampoo is an excellent substitute for a pork pie. At least, according to Tesco Online shopping, it is!

