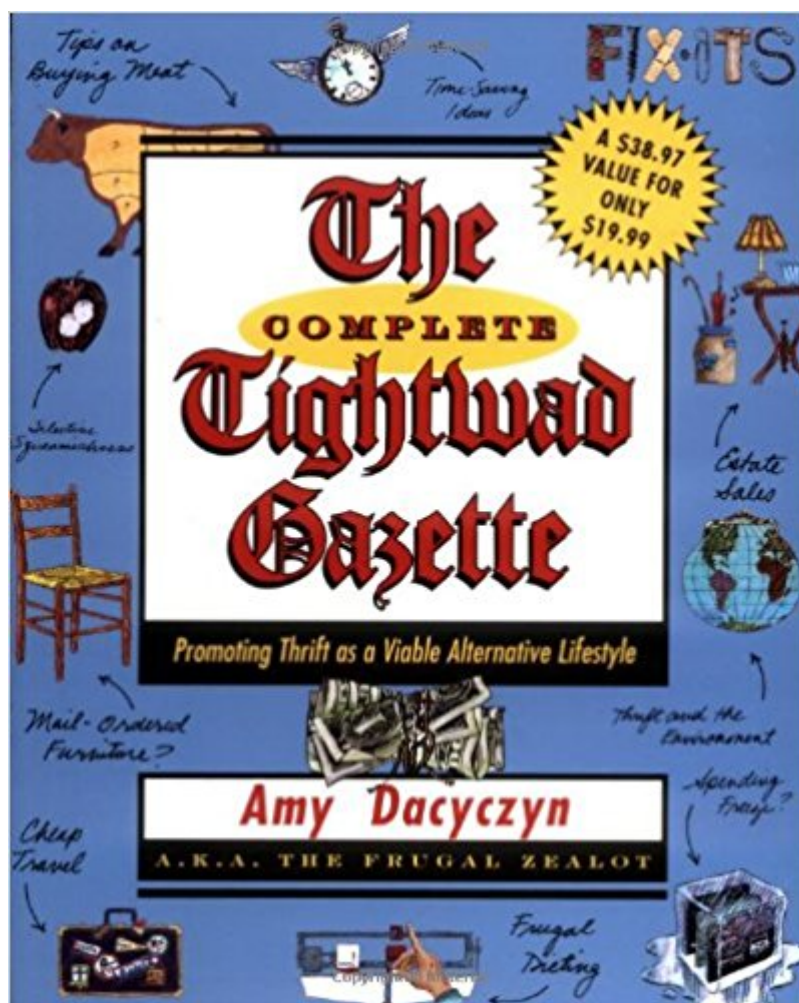


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# The Complete Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift As A Viable Alternative Lifestyle



## Synopsis

At last--the long-awaited complete compendium of tightwad tips for fabulous frugal living! In a newsletter published from May 1990 to December 1996 as well as in three enormously successful books, Amy Dacyczyn established herself as the expert of economy. Now *The Complete Tightwad Gazette* brings together all of her best ideas and thriftiest thinking into one volume, along with new articles never published before in book format. Dacyczyn describes this collection as "the book I wish I'd had when I began my adult life." Packed with humor, creativity, and insight, *The Complete Tightwad Gazette* includes hundreds of tips and topics, such as: Travel for tightwads, How to transform old blue jeans into potholders and quilts, Ten painless ways to save \$100 this year, Picture-framing for pennies, A comparison of painting versus re-siding your house, Halloween costumes from scrounged materials, Thrifty window treatments, Ways to dry up dry-cleaning costs, Inexpensive gifts, Creative fundraisers for kids, Slashing your electric bill, Frugal fix-its, Cutting the cost of college, Moving for less, Saving on groceries, Gift-wrapping for tightwads, Furniture-fusion fundamentals, Cheap breakfast cereals, Avoiding credit card debt, Using items you were about to throw away (milk jugs, plastic meat trays, and more!), Recipes galore, from penny-pinching pizza to toaster pastries, And much much more . . .

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Though tightwad seems like a derogatory term, author Amy Dacyczyn wants to assure you that it's

okay to be a penny-pincher. This self-styled "Frugal Zealot" wrote and published The Tightwad Gazette for over six years to spread the frugal gospel. Each issue contained tips from her personal experience and from her many readers. The wealth of information contained in all these issues has been compiled into one volume for the first time. You'll find literally thousands of ideas for saving money, from the simple or practical to the difficult or bizarre. On the simple, practical side, Dacyszyn advises would-be tightwads to keep track of price trends at several stores in a "price book" and to buy in bulk when prices are low. Other, stranger offerings include tips for turning margarine-tub lids into playing-card holders, old credit cards into guitar picks, and six-pack rings into a hammock or volleyball net. More helpful are inexpensive recipes for making homemade versions of pricey, well-known products and ingenious ways to fix broken or damaged items. The book's disorganization encourages browsing, but the detailed index will point you to the exact page for specific items. Dacyszyn's occasional "thriftier than thou" tone is balanced by the friendly support for frugality that infuses every page. She even reminds her readers that it's okay to "sweat the small stuff"--because this small stuff is the essence of frugality. --C.B. Delaney

At last--the long-awaited complete compendium of tightwad tips for fabulous frugal living! In a newsletter published from May 1990 to December 1996 as well as in three enormously successful books, Amy Dacyszyn established herself as the expert of economy. Now The Complete Tightwad Gazette brings together all of her best ideas and thriftiest thinking into one volume, along with new articles never published before in book format. Dacyszyn describes this collection as "the book I wish I'd had when I began my adult life." Packed with humor, creativity, and insight, The Complete Tightwad Gazette includes hundreds of tips and topics, such as: , Travel for tightwads, How to transform old blue jeans into potholders and quilts, Ten painless ways to save \$100 this year, Picture-framing for pennies, A comparison of painting versus re-siding your house, Halloween costumes from scrounged materials, Thrifty window treatments, Ways to dry up dry-cleaning costs, Inexpensive gifts, Creative fundraisers for kids, Slashing your electric bill, Frugal fix-its, Cutting the cost of college, Moving for less, Saving on groceries, Gift-wrapping for tightwads, Furniture-fusion fundamentals, Cheap breakfast cereals, Avoiding credit card debt, Using items you were about to throw away (milk jugs, plastic meat trays, and more!), Recipes galore, from penny-pinching pizza to toaster pastries, And much much more . . . Three books in one--a \$38.97 value for only \$19.99!

I originally bought the first tightwad book in the mid 90's. I remember reading and taking so many notes. I couldn't wait to get the 2nd and 3rd books. I usually reread the books every January to get

myself in the right frame of mind for the new year. We bought a new house last year and I haven't been able to locate my copies so bought this complete volume. Every person interested in saving money and living better should own these books.

I started reading the Tightwad Gazette when it was a newsletter that came in the mail! That was in the early 90s, and this book is a compilation of 3 books which were compilations of the newsletters. So, some of the information in here is a bit dated. Be prepared for that. But, the processes she outlines, and the spirit she writes in will always be up-to-date. It may be cheaper today to buy a different kind of beans than she recommended 25 years ago, but she showed you how she figured out which ones to buy then and that's the same method you can use today. And, the ideas are only part of the story here. With all of the examples she gives, she helps you to think like a tightwad in your own life. You may be inspired to find ways to save money that she never wrote about. In fact, it's pretty likely that you will, because her spirit is contagious. Another thing I love about her thinking is that she always pushes for people to be honest. Taking 45 ketchup packets at McD isn't frugal, it's theft even if they're there for you to take. Her argument is that they're budgeted for every customer to take a few for their meal, and not for you to stick your kitchen. Besides, she goes on to say, you'd save a lot more money by not going to McD in the first place. Ignore her where you want to (she'd be appalled at my makeup shelves) and use her ideas where you want to and can, and you'll find yourself saving money and resources before you know it!

Great book for those who want to eliminate debt and find ways of saving money. It's just what it says Tightwad Gazette. I used to get Amy's newsletters back in the 90s and loved them. This book has all of the same information plus more.

This is a wonderful book, full of money saving ideas, recipes, tips for car repair, home repair, toy repair, etc. In addition to all that, Amy Dacyczyn is funny! I also appreciated the financial breakdowns that Amy did, such as the cost of staying at home, versus being a working mother. It was very honest and dual sided! This book is, in my humble opinion, timeless as it addresses issues we all have had, will have, and are having now. It spans all ages, as well. A teenager could pick up this book and find helpful advice, but so could an older person with no children at home. I kept borrowing this book from the library, as I am a married Mom with two small children (and desiring more) and I'm so glad I made the leap and finally bought my own copy! UPDATE: I did have to contact the retailer who sold it me, and their customer service was fantastic! My problem was

quickly resolved, and I feel respected as a customer. I was not expecting their level of professional integrity (you never know what to expect when you're not doing business face to face), but I was pleasantly surprised! Would definitely purchase from them again!

After reading through several reviews, I thought I would write my own. I have read the book twice and found it to be extremely informational. I think what a lot of people who scoff at the idea of saving baggies and toilet paper tubes miss the boat on the concept of being a tightwad. Yes, saving baggies and toilet paper tubes will not make you rich but, by doing these tightwad concepts it helps create the mindset of frugal living. It helps you re-think how things are done. The save it up or use it up mentality. Here is what I got out of the book: Pro's: \* The price book concept is a must. I couldn't tell you how many times I have wondered "How much does this cost at Store X?" By compiling a price book you have all of that information at your fingertips. \* Doing your math. Yes I have busted out my calculator in the middle of the store many many times to figure out what is the best deal. \* Realizing coupons aren't always the best option. Do the math. Is the store brand a better price without the coupon? Don't get fooled into thinking I have a coupon it's the best price. \* Love the idea of planning a meal menu the night before. Amy is so right. We don't know how much we are going to eat. Will there be leftovers? Can we spare the leftovers for the next night? Is there any produce we must use before it goes bad? We cannot plan those things 30 days in advance. \* Great from scratch recipes Cons: \* As it has been stated, there are a lot of outdated information. Since this was written in the 90's, prices have changed, technology has changed. \* As some has mentioned, the sometimes preachy attitude. Whether it's being thin/losing weight or deciding to quit your job and be a stay at home Mom. Not every road is for every one. To sum it up, the philosophy and concepts in this book will inspire you to save your money. It certainly has for me and my family. We have started implementing some of the strategies and what an eye opener! How much we were wasting on take out food and extra shopping trips to the grocery store. How much I would blow on stupid stuff. Do I really need another purse? I wouldn't think twice about buying another new purse..now I really think about it. Thanks Amy for opening my eyes to my spendthrift ways!

I was very surprised that a book on this topic would be so engaging and interesting! But it was. I read and reread it, and I'll keep it on hand as a reference. I can do my own DIY version of just about anything to save a few bucks, but this book gave me even more ideas. (Except for powdered milk - I'm too much of a purist for that thriftiness!) I'm really grateful that Ms. Dacyczyn took the time to make this book a reality! It really will help someone new to saving money take it to the next level!

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