GET A *Fresh Start* WITH YOUR MONEY

The Cash and Kerry Budget Bundle Guide

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GET A FRESH START WITH YOUR MONEY

THE CASH AND KERRY BUDGET BUNDLE

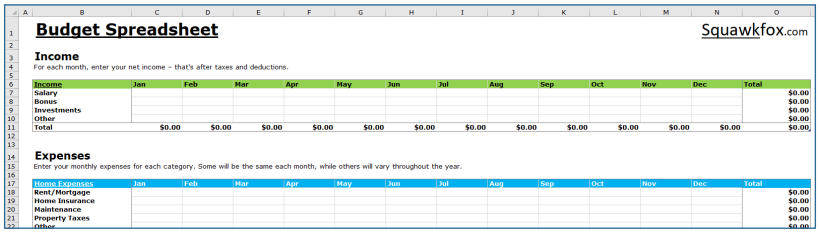
How to use the Budget Bundle:

Congratulations! The zip file you just cracked open contains four tools: The **Budget Spreadsheet**, the **Flexible Budget Spreadsheet**, the **Debt Reduction Spreadsheet**, and the **Budget Bundle Sheet** (you're reading it).

1. Take a deep breath. Today is a fresh start with your money.
2. Be sure you have a recent version of Excel.
3. Follow the steps to build a budget and use these strategies to reduce debt. You've got this!

HOW TO USE THE BUDGET SPREADSHEET

Plan this year's income and expenses with the most popular budgeting categories. Please don't aim for perfection, 'cause the "perfect budget" doesn't exist. A budget should be reflect your life, so use this tool as a guide to give you clarity with your money.



Budget Spreadsheet Squawkfox.com

Income

For each month, enter your net income – that's after taxes and deductions.

Income	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Salary													$0.00
Bonus													$0.00
Investments													$0.00
Other													$0.00
Total	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Expenses

Enter your monthly expenses for each category. Some will be the same each month, while others will vary throughout the year.

Home Expenses	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Rent/Mortgage													$0.00
Home Insurance													$0.00
Maintenance													$0.00
Property Taxes													$0.00
Other													$0.00

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- Tally your expected income for each month in the green section. You may want to separate Salary, Bonuses, Investment Income, and Other.

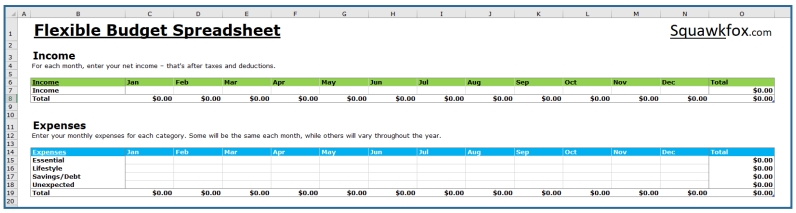
- Enter your expected expenses for each month in the blue section. There are categories for Home, Transportation, Utilities, Medical, Financial, Enjoyment, Family, and other Routine Expenses, with multiple subcategories under each. Don't feel like you've gotta use every darn category — just use the top-level ones to get started. Less is often more. :)

- Scroll to the bottom to view your totals. Use the tables and graphs to help visualize where your money is going.

Tip: Make a second copy of the Budget Spreadsheet to compare different scenarios. Play with the numbers to see how changes to your expenses or income can impact your outcome.

THE FLEXIBLE BUDGET SPREADSHEET

Some people LOVE all the categories and subcategories the previous **Budget Spreadsheet** offers. Others don't. If you're in the "don't love it" group that's OK. Instead, try breaking down your expenses into just FOUR categories. I call this the **Flexible Budget**.



Flexible Budget Spreadsheet Squawkfox.com

Income

For each month, enter your net income – that's after taxes and deductions.

Income	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income													$0.00
Total	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Expenses

Enter your monthly expenses for each category. Some will be the same each month, while others will vary throughout the year.

Expenses	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Essential													$0.00
Lifestyle													$0.00
Savings/Debt													$0.00
Unexpected													$0.00
Total	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

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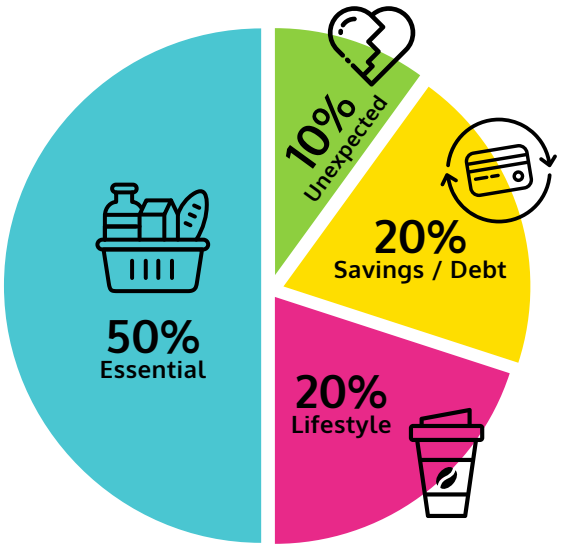
The Flexible Budget



Your budget is a flexible tool, not a set of rules.

The **Flexible Budget Spreadsheet** is less about the small details and more about the big picture. So go ahead and arrange your expenses into four bigger, yet simpler slices. I've suggested some percentages for each category, but that's really up to you – we're all different so set your expenses to meet YOUR needs. If it's not working today, go ahead and adjust it for tomorrow.

- The **Essential** slice is all the stuff you need in life, like food, shelter, and medical.
- Your **Lifestyle** slice is up to you – what makes your life awesome?
- The **Savings/Debt** slice is about dedicating something for the future or paying off the past. You may need to increase this category if you're aiming to reduce more debt or increase your savings.
- The **Unexpected** slice is a life preserver for day-to-day budgeting. It's common to be overly optimistic about reducing expenses or earning more

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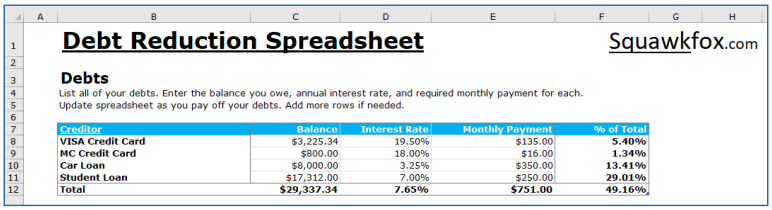
money, and this over-optimism can easily blow up your budget. It's also easy to forget a once-a-year expense, so use this category to keep your budget in balance.

Tip: Build an **Emergency Fund** for serious emergencies – perhaps a flood or fire or because you need major dental work. Don't depend on the **Unexpected** slice to save your butt with real emergencies, it's not meant for fighting major fires.

HOW TO USE THE DEBT REDUCTION SPREADSHEET

Get some clarity with your debt and pick a strategy for paying it off.



Debt Reduction Spreadsheet Squawkfox.com

Debts

List all of your debts. Enter the balance you owe, annual interest rate, and required monthly payment for each.
Update spreadsheet as you pay off your debts. Add more rows if needed.

Creditor	Balance	Interest Rate	Monthly Payment	% of Total
VISA Credit Card	$3,225.34	19.50%	$135.00	5.40%
MC Credit Card	$800.00	18.00%	$16.00	1.34%
Car Loan	$8,000.00	3.25%	$350.00	13.41%
Student Loan	$17,312.00	7.00%	$250.00	29.01%
Total	$29,337.34	7.65%	$751.00	49.16%

- Enter your debts in the first blue table. Include the Balance, Interest Rate, and Minimum Monthly Payment. If you need more space, add an extra row.
- Enter the budgeted amount you have for debt repayment in the green table. The **Debt Reduction Spreadsheet** calculates your total debt, and graphs each loan by amount.
- Each month, update every debt with new balances, then repeat. As each debt reaches zero, remove it from the spreadsheet.

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TWO DEBT-REPAYMENT STRATEGIES

Adding up debt in a spreadsheet is a nice mathematical tool, but it doesn't clarify WHICH debt to pay off first, and in what order.

1. The Snowball Method

The **Debt Snowball Method** orders debts from smallest to largest. This method dedicates all extra repayment funds to the smallest debt first, while making minimum monthly payments on the other debts.

Snowball Method

1. *Order from smallest to largest balance.*
2. *Minimum monthly payment for each debt.*
3. *All extra cash goes to lowest balance debt.*
4. *When first paid off, tackle the next.*

Tackling the lowest balance first and paying it off quickly can be a huge psychological win! You'll likely feel a sense of achievement each time a debt is cleared. Paying the smaller loan first may not mathematically save you the most interest, but you may stay motivated to keep going.

2. The Avalanche Method

The **Avalanche Method** is an accelerated debt repayment plan. Multiple debts often have different interest rates, so order your debts from the highest interest rate to the lowest. Mathematically, it makes sense to pay off debts with the highest interest rate first to minimize interest.

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Avalanche Method

1. *Order from highest to lowest interest rate.*
2. *Minimum monthly payment for each debt.*
3. *All extra cash goes to highest rate debt.*
4. *When first paid off, tackle the next.*

Using the **Avalanche Method**, once the debt with the highest interest rate is completely paid off, then the extra repayment funds go towards the next-highest interest-bearing loan. This system continues until all the debts are paid off.

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Money isn't really about math, right? There's a lot more going on!

Join me and my amazing guests as we share the strategies to help you:

- Make wiser financial decisions
- Build better money habits
- Unlock the path to wealth, health, and happiness!

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With a hit of humor and a wealth of wisdom, we reveal the everyday money mistakes that make us human.

What people are saying:

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Excellent Podcast!

Always enjoy Kerry's financial wisdom. She is a fantastic resource no matter what platform.

This podcast is A+.

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Great Personal Finance Podcast

I really enjoy Kerry's fun personality and in depth knowledge of personal finance. She has some great guests. Check out her writing too!

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Great advice unlike so many podcasts out there!

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Be smart sign up now

I have been following Kerry aka Squawkfox for a while now and I can share with you that if you want someone amazing in your corner pick her.

Thank you for using **The Cash and Kerry Budget Bundle**. You can join me on Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok too! I'm so happy we've connected and I can't wait to watch your financial dreams come true.

Love love love,

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