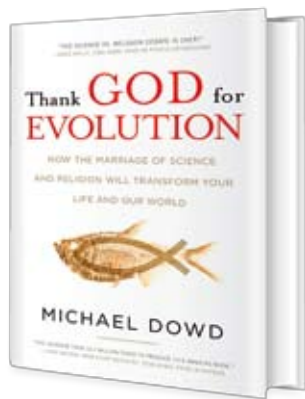


# Ways to save

Free software, comparing prices and cutting the cost of getting goods delivered



## Shopping

### 1 Free delivery

Delivery is now free on items that you buy from Amazon.co.uk as it has scrapped the minimum amount (£5) you had to spend to qualify for free delivery. This applies to items ordered under the Super Saver delivery option on its website. Goods take three to five working days to arrive.

Exceptions to the free delivery rule are gift certificates and items bought through third parties on Amazon Marketplace.

Play.com already offers free delivery and was Which? members' favourite site for buying books, CDs, DVDs and video games in our most recent customer satisfaction survey.

### 2 Cashback card

It makes sense to get the most for your money, especially at Christmas. This applies to how you pay as well as what you buy. The Amex Platinum Cashback Credit Card offers 5% cashback on purchases for the first three months (maximum £100). Pay off your monthly bill in full, or you'll be hit by a high 19.9% APR. Buy

on a credit card and you're protected by section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act if anything goes wrong with the goods.

### 3 Free software

Whether you want to edit pictures, listen to music, keep your computer safe or set up a home office, you don't have to spend a fortune on expensive software.

You can save hundreds of pounds, according to our sister magazine Which? Computing. Using Best Buy AVG Anti-Virus Free instead of Microsoft Live OneCare to protect your computer from viruses saves £40. See [www.which.co.uk/securitysoftware](http://www.which.co.uk/securitysoftware) for more.

Similarly, if you don't want to splash out on a paid-for photo editing program such as Adobe Photoshop (£615), Gimp is a viable alternative and can be downloaded free of charge from [www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org).

OpenOffice is available to download free from [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org). It offers word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software and is an alternative to buying one of the paid-for versions of Microsoft Office.



### 4 Download prices

If you're interested in downloading music from the internet, the website [www.comparedownload.com](http://www.comparedownload.com) checks prices on some of the

most popular sites including iTunes, 7digital, Amazon and HMV. See also [www.which.co.uk/downloadingmusic](http://www.which.co.uk/downloadingmusic).

### 5 Comparing prices

A simple way for Which? members to compare the prices of products that have been reviewed by Which? is to visit [www.which.co.uk](http://www.which.co.uk). You can then click on 'compare prices' in each individual review. Click on the shop you want and you can buy it there and then.

### 6 Website safety

New online retailers appear every day and you may sometimes see the

cheapest quoted prices for goods on websites you have never heard of before. For detailed advice on safe shopping online, visit [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) or our own report [www.which.co.uk/shopsafelyonline](http://www.which.co.uk/shopsafelyonline).

### 7 A good time to buy

The January sales are a great time to look for bargains on new TVs, DVD players or a satnav system.

Argos releases its new catalogue in January, so you'll find plenty of end-catalogue and clearance bargains across its product range in December. If you're looking for a large



domestic appliance, such as a washing machine or dishwasher, hit the shops between January and March to snap up cheap end-of-line products. Ensure you bag the best bargains by asking sales staff about show models they may sell off more cheaply.

When toys, videogames and games consoles are back in stock after the Christmas rush prices start to drop off.

## General

**8 Food ideas**  
Every year, 6.7 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK. The website Love Food Hate Waste estimates that waste jumps up to 80% over



Christmas. So make the most of leftovers with seasonal recipes such as pumpkin tart or roast dinner soup at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com).

**9 Free parking**  
If you are fed up about having to pay to park your car, the website [www.freeparkingspace.co.uk](http://www.freeparkingspace.co.uk) shows you places where you can park for free.

You can search by attraction and/or town name. In addition, it provides streetside pay-and-display parking and private parking information – handy if there aren't any free parking spaces available.

You can also post details of free parking to help other motorists.

**10 Cheap light bulbs**  
Homebase is currently offering 11 watt Phillips Energy-saving stick light bulbs for 10p each, both the bayonet cap and Edison screw varieties. To find out more, visit [www.homebase.co.uk](http://www.homebase.co.uk), click on the lighting link at the top of the page and then the special offers link on the left-hand side of the page.

Energy-saving bulbs use less energy than typical incandescent bulbs because they're more efficient.

**11 Calculating tax**  
The end of the year is a time when many of us look to check our finances are in shape.

If you want to check that you're paying the right amount of tax, use the Which? tax calculator and find out if you could claim a refund. Visit [www.which.co.uk/taxcalculator](http://www.which.co.uk/taxcalculator) to find out more information.



## Leisure

**12 Free books**  
There are thousands of free electronic books available to read at [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org). These include books by authors such as the Bronte sisters, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and other out-of-print classics.

**13 Theatre tickets**  
If you're thinking of booking a trip to the theatre in London, it may be worth having a look at the website [comparetheatretickets.com](http://comparetheatretickets.com) which may be able to save you time and money by

showing cheapest tickets for a range of shows.

**14 Set-top box**  
Gear up for the digital switchover with a Best Buy set-top box. The cheapest Best Buy – the TVonics MDR-300 Freeview box – costs £40, a saving of £110 over the most expensive Best Buy. See [www.which.co.uk/settopboxes](http://www.which.co.uk/settopboxes).

**15 Cheap tickets**  
Anyone who has a valid student ID card can get tickets at The Royal Ballet or The Royal Opera House for £10. All you have to do is to sign up to the Student Standby scheme. Unsold tickets are then made available to students over the internet a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

**16 Film sale**  
Film DVD website LoveFilm has a pre-Christmas sale. It's offering hundreds of TV and film box-sets at up to 60% off normal price. See [www.lovefilm.com](http://www.lovefilm.com) to find out more.

