

# 15 secret ways to save more bucks on Amazon.com & more

## 1. You can trade in your gadgets for cash

You can send in your old gadgets, including phones, tablets, cameras and more, as well as old books and textbooks in exchange for an Amazon gift card. The items must be in decent condition and the shipping is even included! (Amazon Trade-In program)

## 2. Amazon price matches TV's

If you buy a TV and find a better price somewhere **within 30 days** (on Amazon or at another retailer), Amazon will match the price and send you a refund in the form of a gift card. (Help & Customer Care Pricing)

## 3. Get used, opened or refurbished items on super deep discount

Amazon sells items that are used, opened, damaged or refurbished at super discounted prices. Available products range from TVs and electronics to home goods and smart thermostats. Items are listed by quality, including very good, acceptable and like new. If you aren't concerned about original packaging or something being slightly used, this is a great way to score a deal on items that would typically cost you a whole lot more! (Amazon warehouse page)

## 4. Students can save even more

Being a student typically comes with a tight budget, so Amazon offers students a free six-month Prime membership. When the six-month trial is up, you can renew the subscription for only \$49 — half of the regular annual membership fee — for up to **4 years**. (Help & Customer Care Join Prime Student)

## 5. Amazon has an outlet

This is where you'll find the super discounted prices. Amazon outlet offers products in pretty much every category that are on clearance — and these deals can save you up to 80%!

## 6. Parents get special perks

Amazon Family offers special deals and discounts on things like household goods and age-based product recommendations, as well as 20% off diaper subscriptions and 15% off any remaining baby registry items.

## 7. Share your Prime membership

Amazon does allow you to add other individuals onto your Prime account, but technically they should be members of your household. Here's what Amazon says about sharing Amazon Prime benefits:

'Free or paid Amazon Prime members can share their shipping benefits with up to four additional family members living in the same household. If you purchase a Prime

membership for a small business, you may invite up to four co-workers to shop with this corporate account.'

But it doesn't seem like these guidelines are super strict. People sharing your Prime benefits can ship to multiple addresses, so it's currently possible to add a friend or family member who doesn't live with you. And then you can split the cost of the standard \$99 annual membership.

**Just to note: Amazon could make this more difficult at any time, so you have to decide for yourself how you use your subscription service.**

#### **8. Buy when the price drops (see also 15.)**

Amazon price tracker site <https://camelcamelcamel.com> monitors millions of products on Amazon and alerts you when the price drops on items you want.

#### **9. Get your money back for missed delivery dates**

If you purchase something that qualifies for free shipping with Amazon Prime and it doesn't come on time, you may be able to get a one-month extension of your membership for free. If you don't have Prime, Amazon will refund the shipping costs if the item arrives late. (Amazon About Delivery Guarantees)

#### **10. Save on everyday items with Subscribe & Save**

On many household essentials and grocery items, Amazon offers you the option to "subscribe" to the product and offers a discounted price if you do so. This is the retailer's Subscribe and save program. You'll receive regular shipments of the item you subscribed to, but for as much as 15% off the regular price. So for things you regularly buy, this is a great way to save!

#### **11. Shop around for cheaper prices**

Check out sites like Price Grabber and Price Blink to find lower prices and coupons. These sites actually scan the internet for cheaper prices while you're viewing products on Amazon.

#### **12. You can shop on Amazon using points**

If you have credit card rewards points, you can use them for purchases on Amazon. Just use that card to make the purchase and apply however many points you want to go toward that transaction at the time of check-out.

#### **13. Use a coupon aggregator**

Coupon aggregator plug-ins like Honey <https://www.joinhoney.com/> will automatically find coupons for you and apply them at checkout. Just install the plug-in in your Mozilla Firefox browser and it will do all the work for you!

#### **14. Choose longer shipping time to save**

When Amazon Prime members get to checkout, just choose the 5-day shipping option (instead of the 2-day) and you'll get credits in your account to use for future purchases.

**15.** Use <https://camelcamelcamel.com> to get the best prices

“The free Amazon price tracker monitors millions of products and alerts you when prices drop, helping you decide when to buy,” the company states on its website. You can browse popular products, top price drops and more. Plus, you can set up your own custom price alerts for specific products.

### **Smile for Charity**

Shopping for yourself doesn't mean you can't also give a little. The Amazon Smile program makes that easy. Just always, always, always visit the site by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Set it up in your bookmarks/favorites, and use the Amazon Smile 1Button for Chrome or Smile Redirect for Firefox browser add-ons to get reminded/forced to use Smile when you go to Amazon. Then, pick a charity - over a million 501(c)(3) public organizations are in the list - and when you buy eligible products, 0.5 percent of the purchase price will go toward your favorite charity. You don't get any tax benefit, but you still get what you purchased. Charities, visit [org.amazon.com](https://org.amazon.com) to register.

### **Prime with a Partner**

If you're paying for Amazon Prime, you don't have to go it alone. The cost of that Prime account can be shared with one other adult member of your household, plus up to four kids under the roof who don't even need Amazon accounts. (It used to be you could share full Prime with multiple family members, but Amazon cracked down on that.) This is a smart way to keep the holiday shopping secrets, yet still get all the two-day shipping savings. Amazon Prime sharing includes Amazon Video with all the linked members, not to mention Prime Early Access, and the Kindle Owners' Lending Library. The adults get access to the Amazon Free Time parental controls to make sure kids don't get into anything they shouldn't. To set up Amazon Household, go and click Add Adult/Teen/Child. You'll need their email address as used on Amazon, and it will require the adults to share credit or debit card information.

### **Prime-ary Gift**

If your most beloved family-member-turned-Amazon-addict isn't part of the immediate household, give Prime as a gift in one-year (\$119) or three-month (\$39) increments to anyone with an email address. The gift membership comes with all the benefits - two-day shipping, streaming video and music, borrowing books on Kindle, etc. If the person is already a Prime member, they can exchange the fee you paid for an Amazon Gift Card code.

### **Get Prime Free (for a While)**

A money-saving game to play: Amazon Prime comes with a free one-month trial. Use it during the holidays to get free shipping when you do the most shopping, then cancel before you're charged. Better yet, be a student. With Prime Student, you get Prime for free for six months, and a half-price discount thereafter (only \$59 per year). Adults who are already Prime members but become parents can sign up for Amazon Family (once called Amazon Mom). There is no specific major savings on the price of Prime this way, but parents get exclusives, such as 20 percent off diaper subscriptions.

## Don't Get Trapped by Prime

Because Prime offers such great shipping deals, you sometimes may order an item from Amazon that is actually too expensive, just to get it faster. If you can wait more than two days, look for the same object on sale from third-party sellers that don't offer Prime shipping. If their reviews are good and you don't need the item immediately, you could save a few bucks.

## Where's the Warehouse?

What happens to all those products that inevitably get returned to Amazon? Those gems that are no longer "new," but good enough? They are typically found in the Amazon Warehouse Deals site, where you'll find "deep discounts on open-box, like-new, and pre-owned products." Best of all, they are typically still eligible for Amazon Prime shipping, and if you don't like an item, you can still return it. Similarly, you can find deals at the almost hidden Amazon Outlet store.

## Today's Deals on Amazon

Amazon's best deals for new products are found in the "Today's Deals" link on the top of any Amazon page. The section has a Deal of the Day, and time-limited Lightning Deals (where you only get hours or just minutes to snag a product on sale). There isn't always a lot of notice, but if you use the Amazon apps on your phone, use the hamburger menu () and select Today's Deals to see the deals on the go.

## Same-Day Delivery = Joy

In certain cities - over 8,000 of them - you can get same-day delivery of select items. Prime members in those areas receive free same-delivery on qualifying orders over \$35. Order by noon and your package will be delivered by 9 p.m., seven days a week. Order in the afternoon or evening, and get free one-day delivery. See if your city is included here. If you need something even faster, Amazon Prime Now offers deliveries in one to two hours, from household staples and electronics to restaurant delivery and selections from Whole Foods. Its delivery footprint is more limited than same-day; enter your ZIP code to see if you can get it.

## Subscribe to Products

You usually think of a subscription for something entertaining, like a magazine, or for streaming video services, where you get new and different things. With Amazon's Subscribe & Save program, you get the same items over and over, but they are items you always need: detergent, cat litter, dog food, razor blades, toilet paper...Cheetos. Save as much as 15 percent off products that fit the bill if you subscribe to five or more per month. You can cancel whenever you want; there's no year-long commitment that will force you to get, say, the same size diapers for a year. Wonder if it would work for you? Check out the page of every item eligible.

## Dash for Products

If you don't want to bother whipping out your phone or laptop to re-order often-used products, there's the Amazon Dash button, a physical button you put in your house. Just push it whenever you want to re-order. Don't worry about kids (or pets) pushing it by accident and ordering tons of detergent: you get an alert on your phone when an order is placed, and another order can't be placed until the first one is delivered. The

Dash has evolved into other forms. There are virtual Dash buttons for use on the web or in the Amazon apps. Almost anything you've ever bought that can or should be re-ordered again shows up in the list. There's also the Dash Wand, a barcode scanner with built-in Alexa that lets you make a dash for products you perhaps didn't get originally from Amazon. You can also ask Alexa to re-order stuff if you've got an Echo device.

### The Card(s) That Pay You Back

Amazon has a lot of cards that make it worth your while to shop. The Amazon Store Card is for shopping only at Amazon, but offers special rates like no-interest six-month financing on orders of \$149 and above, no-interest 12-month financing on orders of \$599 and above, and no-interest 24-month financing on select items. Prime members get 5 percent back when they buy eligible Prime-only items. If you qualify for one, Amazon will also give an an Echo Dot \$24.00 at Amazon for 99 cents.

The Amazon.com Rewards Visa Card from Chase can be used anywhere, and collects points. If you're a Prime member, you get 5 points per dollar spent on Amazon, 2 per dollar at restaurants, drugstores, and gas stations; and 1 per dollar on all other purchases. (If you're not a Prime member, you can still get the card, but get 3 points for every dollar purchased at Amazon instead.) One hundred points earns you one dollar to spend on Amazon. However, since a "purchase" on Amazon made *with points* doesn't earn you even more points, the best practice is to redeem it for gift cards or as cash back via Chase. Points won't work for items such as digital downloads and some subscription and grocery items. Travelling overseas? There's no foreign transaction fees. You can also link other credit cards—like American Express, Discover, Citi, and more - to your Amazon account and Shop With Points.

### Amazon Add-Ons Without Minimums

"Add-ons" are additional items Amazon sells that are very inexpensive - generally under \$5. They're so small that Amazon prefers to ship them with other orders. If your cart is less than \$25 at checkout, Amazon will save add-on items for your next purchase of \$25 or more. You can get around this by pre-ordering things that aren't available yet and then canceling the pre-order later--the add-on will show up anyway. Or use Alexa—if you have Voice Purchasing enabled, ask Alexa to order that specific product, and the single item order should be placed. It's a douche-move and Amazon could put the kibosh on this workaround at any moment, but there you go.

### Get Shipping Refund on Late Items

When you order items using Amazon Prime, you expect that two-day shipping to be guaranteed. It's even more important to get the one-day shipping if you pay extra for it. Check to make sure there actually is a green "Guaranteed delivery" date on the item at checkout. If not, well, you get it when you get it.

If it's guaranteed, but doesn't arrive on the right date by 8 p.m., you can sometimes get a refund on shipping. Or even a one-month extension on your Amazon Prime account, if the order meets all the criteria. This works for Amazon Family and can only happen a max of 12 times a year (or once during your Prime free trial).

### Trade In Tech for Amazon Money

There's no lack of places to trade in old tech like phones and tablets. Amazon has a trade-in program as well, and it can be used to get money to spend on more stuff at Amazon, naturally (you get an Amazon code, not cash). The original product didn't have

to come from Amazon to be eligible. Trade-in item categories include Kindles, tablets, streaming media players, Bluetooth speakers and Echo, textbooks, cell phones, and video games.

### Replace Stolen Packages

Every once and a while, a package you order may get ripped off in transit (or right from your porch). You may not be completely S.O.L. There are numerous reports from customers across the web that if you make a plea to Amazon Customer Service, they may replace it, free! Obviously, it has to be sold direct from Amazon, you'll need tracking numbers and other info, and this isn't going to work more than once (maybe twice). That's because Amazon will certainly track who it does this for, and it's not dumb. But should an important item go missing, it's worth a shot. Afterwards, upgrade your delivery security - at the very least, make sure USPS, UPS, and FedEx require a signature to make a delivery. If you've got a location near you with one, try Amazon Locker for your pickup (and returns), or an Amazon Hub (see the video above) in residential buildings.

### Clip Some Coupons

Amazon has an ongoing set of coupon offers at its Coupons page. Clip any and all you might want to use; they're mostly household goods but you can search under categories like Electronics, Toys, and Jewelry for other things. The savings of around 10 to 15 percent will automatically be applied when you make the purchase. If you don't make the purchase, no big deal, the coupon doesn't get used and eventually it'll expire.

### Track Amazon Prices

Amazon's not going to go out of its way to inform you when a product you love is super cheap (though if you check your Wish List a lot, it does indicate how much the price has dropped since you added it.) Luckily, there are plenty of third-party options to track prices. OnlinePriceAlert will email you whenever a product you want at a certain price hits that threshold. The uniquely named CamelCamelCamel tracks tons of products and provides info via email and Twitter. Set it up in your browser with add-on tool Camelizer. Honey is another service with a browser add-on that shows you deals on Amazon before you buy - right in the Amazon window.

### Whole Foods Discounts

Love shopping at Whole Foods, but hate the prices? The chain is now owned by Amazon, and thus comes with a new Amazon Prime perk: you can now get 10 percent off sale items, plus other weekly discounts. You can use the Whole Foods Market app at checkout to get the deals; the app will also show off what's on sale. There's also two-hour deliveries from Whole Foods, via Prime Now, in select cities. The Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card also offers 5 percent back on Whole Foods Market purchases.

### The Medicaid Discount

If you're on Medicaid, Amazon wants to help. Help you with buying stuff from them. It does that by offering Medicaid recipients a deal on Prime: it's only \$5.99 a month, compared to the \$12.99 per month (or \$119 per year) everyone else pays. The same deal applies to Electronic Benefits Transfer cardholders. The deal is good for four years with either kind of card.

## Give a Giveaway, Get a Giveaway

Amazon Giveaways are ways for vendors, sellers, and authors to who use Amazon to literally give away a product as a drawing or prize, thus raising awareness. Everyday a subscriber can get an email to see a few, or go online to see a full list of the days giveaways, and try their luck to win one or all of them. Sometimes you have to sit through a video to get the option to click; pro tip: you don't have to really watch the video, just wait about 30 seconds. When you don't win, you're usually presented with an option to buy the product at a discount. Hey, you bought a Powerball ticket, and this is free to try, so what have you got to lose?

## Cancel All that Prime

Sometimes, you just don't want to shop. Not even at Amazon. If you're tired of the emails and deals and discounts, you can always pull out. The steps to cancelling your Amazon Prime account not only exist, it's pretty easy to do. After all, Amazon probably knows you'll be back to spend even more money without the discounts.

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