THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR 10 ON A BUDGET (or even Friendsgiving!)

From Coupons.com Savings Expert Jeanette Pavini



Menu:

- Turkey
- Mixed Vegetables
- Broth
- Cranberries
- Stuffing
- Sweet potatoes with marshmallows
- Rolls
- Pie
- 2 bottles of wine
- Sparkling Cider
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy

Total Cost: \$40.53 (Using Coupons.com strategies – approximately a 52% savings)

Thanksgiving on a budget breakdown:

Whole Turkey:

Original price: \$17.27Club Savings: \$9.27Final price: \$8

Birds Eye Steam Veggies (3):

• Original price: \$9 total

• Final price: \$5 total (3 for \$5 sale)

Broth:

Original Price: \$1.69Card Savings: \$0.69

• Final Price: \$1

Ocean Spray Fresh Cranberries:

Original price: \$5.98Final price: \$4 (on sale)

Kraft's Stove Top Stuffing (2):

• Original price: \$5.98 total (2)

• Sale price: \$0.99 each / \$1.98 Total

Coupons: \$2.02Final price: \$1.98

Sweet Potato:

Original Price: \$3.39Card Savings: \$0.40Final Price: \$2.99

Marshmallows:

Original Price: \$2.39Card Savings: \$0.39Coupon: \$1.01Final Price: \$0.99

Pillsbury Crescent Rolls (2):

• Original price: \$6.98 for two total

Store Savings: \$3Coupons: \$1

• Final price: \$2.98 (2)

Pie:

• Original price: \$6

Wine: 2 Bottles:

• Original Price: \$4.99 each bottle

Card Savings: \$4 TotalFinal Price: \$5.98

Apple Cider Sparkling:

Original Price: \$3.49
Card Savings: \$1
Store Coupon: \$0.50
Final Price: \$1.99

Mashed Potato:

Original price: \$2.99Card Savings: \$1Final price: \$1.99

Gravy:

Original: \$7.98 (2)Card Savings: \$3.99Final Price: \$3.99

Additional Club Savings: \$7 taken off of total

Total Savings: \$43.27

THANKSGIVING GROCERY SAVINGS CHEAT SHEET:

What holiday food items are other shoppers saving money on?

Confirm at a glance which items on your grocery list there is no excuse to pay full price for.

- Baked Goods 2.3 million coupons activated /36.5% of the annual savings
- Baking supplies 4.8 million coupons activated/48.7% of annual savings
- Cheese 8.5 million coupons activated/32.3% of annual savings
- Confections 3.7 million coupons activated/38.9% of annual savings
 - The statistics are based on coupon activations on the foods that people saved the most on from October-December 2015 (unless otherwise noted).

THANKSGIVING TIPS - Hidden Secrets to Saving on Your Thanksgiving Meal

- 1. Don't overdo it! Search online for a meat calculator. Enter the number of kids and adults and find out exactly how many pounds you will need. It will even tell you how much gravy and stuffing is necessary for the meal
 - **a.** If you're only serving a few, don't feel obligated to buy the whole turkey, a turkey breast will do the job
 - **b.** Stick to inexpensive bottles of wine and just pour into a decorative decanter
- **2. Price matching can apply to turkeys too**. For example, Safeway guarantees the lowest price on frozen turkeys and will match a competitor's price when you show their ad or coupon
- **3. Build your menu around "loss leader" items:** The prices of certain foods have gone up this holiday season, but grocery stores have "loss leaders" or items on sale at below cost that they use to lure you into the store. The good news is turkey is often a loss leader this time of year
- **4. Think Beyond T-Day.** Ask for a rain check even if a sale item won't be restocked by Thanksgiving Day. You still need to eat in December, so why not take advantage of those Thanksgiving deals.
- **5. Raid the freezer.** Dig into the depths of your freezer in search for leftover rolls or sliced bread like the often-neglected end pieces. Thaw it out for Thanksgiving and use this bread hodgepodge to make stuffing
 - **a.** Frozen fruits and vegetables are still full of nutritional value because flash freezing preserves the nutrients. Compare prices in the fresh and frozen aisle for items like green beans and cranberries

- **b.** You may save buying frozen in bulk, so if you're feeding a crowd, this could be the way to go
- **6. Use social media!** Be sure to check out the Facebook and Twitter accounts for your favorite coupon sites, stores and manufacturers. Many times, you will hear about upcoming sales and promotions before they are announced, plus get special insider coupons!