



## Don't Blow That Holiday Bonus!

If you're like most people, you've probably decided how you want to spend your holiday bonus before you even have the check in hand. Maybe you're planning to take off on a shopping spree, host an unforgettable holiday party or even jet away to a luxury vacation resort. Certainly, these all sound like fun ways to spend your bonus – but don't kid yourself into thinking they're the smartest ways to use your extra cash.

This year, consider saving or investing your holiday bonus rather than using it to fund a few fleeting moments of fun. You'll be much better off in the long run when you handle your holiday bonus responsibly, and – trust us – your future self will thank you for it later. Keep Reading to learn more about how you can get the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to your holiday bonus.

### Pay off high-rate debts

If you have high-rate credit card debts to pay off, don't even think about spending your holiday bonus on a frivolous item or vacation getaway. Instead, put the money toward your bills to start digging yourself out of debt. A good strategy is to tackle the credit card with the highest interest

rate first, and then work your way down to the cards with lower rates.

### Build an emergency fund

No matter how secure you may feel about your current financial situation, you never know if a job layoff or surprise expense is heading your way. Be prepared for the worst by using your holiday bonus to build up an emergency fund. Experts typically advise having enough savings on hand to cover three to six months' worth of living expenses, but families depending on one income should consider saving even more.

### Contribute to a Roth IRA

If you plan to rely on Social Security or pensions during your retirement years, you're in for a rough ride. These days, it's up to you to build your own retirement fund. And if you haven't already started saving up, now is the time to start. Use your holiday bonus to contribute to a Roth IRA, and you'll be on your way to securing a stress-free retirement.

So, there you have it – the three best uses for your end-of-year bonus. Though you may be tempted to use your holiday money for treats or frivolous items, do everything you can to resist the urge. After all, your future may depend on it.