FREE PRINTABLE

# The 50/30/20 Budget Worksheet

Split your take-home pay into three buckets: about half for the bills you must pay, about 30% for the things you choose, and at least 20% for future you. Fill this in with a pencil at the start of the month, then add the Actual column at the end.
Month: _____

## 1 Your monthly take-home pay

Use what actually lands in your account, not your salary. If health insurance or a 401(k) comes out before payday, you can add it back here and list it under Needs or Savings, as long as you do it the same way every month.

| Source | Example | Your amount |
|---|---|---|
| Paycheck 1 | $2,000 | |
| Paycheck 2 | $2,000 | |
| Side income / other | $0 | |
| Pre-tax deductions added back (optional) | $0 | |
| **Total take-home pay** **A** | **$4,000** | **$** |

## 2 Work out your three targets

Multiply line A. Quick check: the three targets should add back up to A. Shortcut: 10% of A is A with the decimal point moved one place left; double that for 20%, triple it for 30%, and multiply by five for 50%.

**Needs · A × 0.50**

**$** _____

Example: $4,000 × 0.50 = $2,000

**Wants · A × 0.30**

**$** _____

Example: $4,000 × 0.30 = $1,200

**Savings & debt · A × 0.20**

**$** _____

Example: $4,000 × 0.20 = $800

## 3 List your needs

**50%** **Needs**

Bills you would still owe if your income stopped next month.

Target **A × 0.50**

**$** _____

| Item | Planned | Actual |
|---|---|---|
| Rent or mortgage (example) | $1,300 | $1,300 |
| Groceries, not restaurants (example) | $450 | $480 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Bucket total** | **$** | **$** |

## 4 List your wants and your savings

### 30% Wants

Spending you could pause for a month if you had to.

Target **A × 0.30** = **$** _____

| Item | Planned | Actual |
|---|---|---|
| Dining out (example) | $200 | $260 |
| Streaming (example) | $30 | $30 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Bucket total** | **$** | **$** |

### 20% Savings & debt

Money that makes next year easier.

Target **A × 0.20** = **$** _____

| Item | Planned | Actual |
|---|---|---|
| Emergency fund (example) | $300 | $300 |
| Extra on card debt (example) | $150 | $150 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| **Bucket total** | **$** | **$** |

## 5 See how the month really split

At month end, copy each bucket's Actual total here. Your share = actual ÷ A × 100. Difference = target − actual (a minus number means you went over).

| Bucket | Target $ | Actual $ | Your share % | Difference $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Needs (example) | $2,000 | $2,620 | 65.5% | −$620 |
| Needs | | | % | |
| Wants | | | % | |
| Savings & debt | | | % | |
| **Total (should equal A)** | **$** | **$** | **100%** | |

## Monthly check-in

Date: _____

**Which bucket ran over, and why?**

**One change I'll make next month:**

- ☐ My savings transfer is set for the day after payday
- ☐ I compared one bill (phone, insurance, internet) for a lower price
- ☐ I moved any leftover money to savings or debt
- ☐ Needs above 50%? I wrote down one long-term fix (lease, car, roommate)

Needs well above 50% is common, especially for renters. Protect a smaller savings number before trimming it to zero, and treat 50/30/20 as a direction to move toward, not a pass/fail test.