

December 23, 1971

Count Hidden Costs In Owning House

Time: 1 min. 10 sec.

Buying a house is exciting. Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota, indicates that housing takes the biggest bite of a family's living dollars... often as much as 30 percent.

In the long run we generally assume that home ownership is cheaper than renting, but hidden costs are involved. Consider real estate taxes--\$600 to \$1,000 a year for an average income family. Fire and casualty insurance may run \$100 to \$160. General maintenance may take 1 percent of the house value. And, inflation is involved.

Some families forget the closing costs (about 2 percent of the value). Lawn care and garden tools need to be counted along with extra entertainment expenses with overnight guests.

Remember that extra costs in home owning tie up money that if invested might otherwise be earning interest or dividends. A family that rents at a lesser cost could find themselves money ahead...but with maybe a landlord on their back. At any rate, buying a house involves a long series of decisions with inevitable risks...but probably a lot of satisfactions, too.

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Freeze Cheese Gift

Time: 14 sec.

If you received a large amount of cheese...say you can't eat it within a couple of months...cut it into half pound pieces, wrap airtight and freeze. When you're ready to use it, thaw slowly in the refrigerator. You can then enjoy your gift package all year round.

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Money Is What You Make It

Time: 35 sec.

The marvelous thing about people...we don't all think alike. The fact is, concepts are viewed differently. And, who's to say which is RIGHT. (Certainly not me...unless I'm referring to my own views!)

Kathy Jeary, assistant professor, family social science, University of Minnesota says, "For some, money is a resource to be cautiously spent. But saving for the future, gratification is delayed. For others money is something to be used now...to be enjoyed for the present, before it disappears." Brings to mind those who work so they can retire and enjoy themselves and others who work just enough so they can enjoy themselves before they retire. Who's to say which is right?

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Cheddar Sold In Different Strengths

Time: 35 sec.

Cheese is frequently given as a gift. Whether you're on the giving or receiving end, it's a popular item.

Cheddar is the most popular. Although cheddar is often called American cheese, ironically the name comes from a small town in England...which as one might suspect is called Cheddar.

Edmund Zottola, extension food scientist, reminds us that Cheddar is versatile. The sharpness of the cheese is related to the aging and full development of flavor. Mild refers to young cheese, sharp to cheese six months old, very sharp to cheese aged over one year. Very sharp has a much stronger flavor than mild cheese.

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