

Mending Dahlias

Tracking Life's Unexpected Bills:

Your Go-To Guide to Managing Surprise
Expenses for Divorced Women





Thank you for downloading “Tracking Life’s Unexpected Bills: The Go-To Guide to Managing Surprise Expenses for Divorced Women.”

Now that you are creating a budget on your own, it’s important to capture a complete picture of your finances.

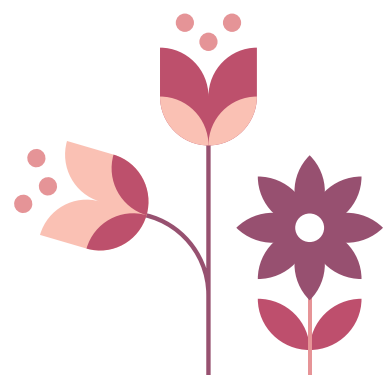
Most women are diligent in listing their weekly and monthly expenses. However, if you just stop there, you could be missing a very important piece. We call these the “Escrow Items.”

Escrow Items are expenses that pop-up irregularly throughout the year. We’re talking about anything from haircuts to car maintenance! There are so many expenses in life that become unhappy surprises, and we need to account for them.

If you create a budget without accounting for these expenses, this can often make or break your budget. Please make sure to take your time and really consider what expenses pop-up for you each and every year.

In this guide you will find a page to list all of your Escrow Items for the year. We have included some of the most common expenses, but this is by no means an exhaustive list. If you are new to budgeting, you may not even be aware of all these expenses. Add to this list as you need to.

You will also find a calculation sheet. This is a helpful tool for you to break down these expenses into your budget. Many women divide this amount equally between their monthly paychecks, however, it would not be uncommon for payments to be divided unequally to fit into the budget.



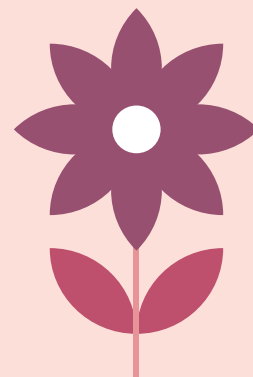
Escrow Items ✕ This step is one that many people forget to include when creating a budget, but we find that these expenses can often make or break you. We call them the “Escrow Items.” There are so many things that pop-up irregularly, and we need to account for them. Please make sure to take your time and really consider what expenses pop-up for you each and every year. If you are new to budgeting, you may not even be aware of all these expenses. Add to this list as you need to.

YEARLY ESCROW ITEM

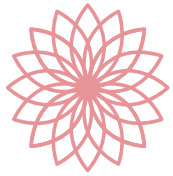
AMOUNT

**Some Common
Escrow Items:**

- Birthdays
- Holidays (*Easter, Christmas, Valentine's, etc.*)
- Vacations
- Haircuts
- Clothing
- Kid's Friends' Parties
- Home Repairs
- Home Maintenance
- Car Maintenance
- Summer Camps
- Pet Visits
- Pest Control
- Additional Retirement Contributions
- 529 Plans



Total Annual Escrow:



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Escrow Worksheet for Divorced Women

- ✕ Step 1: Use the Escrow Item sheet to review your spending over the last year and record your expenses. Transfer the total annual expenses for your Escrow Items below.

Total Annual Expenses

- ✕ Step 1.5: Calculate how many paychecks you receive in a year:

Bi-weekly	26
Bi-monthly	24
Weekly	52

- ✕ Step 2: Calculate how much you should be setting aside per paycheck:

Total Annual Expenses

**Number of Paychecks
Annually**

Total amount you should be setting aside each paycheck:



- ✕ This works if your monthly budget can support dividing the Escrow Item amount equally per paycheck. If you need to divide the amount unequally, you will need to evaluate your monthly expenses and paycheck amounts to figure out the best way to accommodate these funds into your budget.