We are always looking for a great way to save a dollar or two. But it takes time and effort to get some discounts. Many coupons and discounts are often missed. So, here’s a hit list of a few that are commonly overlooked:

- **Coupons on the back of your receipt.** Flip over that receipt and check out the back. There are often discounts from that merchant, or they might even sell ads on the back of the register tape to other merchants. Also, check the coupons that are given to you with the receipt. They may be for purchased products (or their competitors’), but every once in a while you might get a coupon for dollars off or a percentage off your next purchase. I nearly missed a $10 coupon recently, but the cashier brought it to my attention as she handed it to me.

- **Coupons stuck to the product.** When you are at the store, look for coupons on the product. But watch as you check out to make sure the coupon is credited. They are easy to miss.

- **Senior discounts.** Seniors are eligible for lots of discounts. Here in town, Fred Meyer gives you a senior discount (if you ask for it) on the first Tuesday of the month. Check seniordiscounts.com for some additional ideas.

- **Status discounts.** Seniors aren’t the only ones who get discounts. Students, teachers and military personnel are often treated to savings of 10 to 20 percent — up to 50 percent for military at some fast food restaurants. Be ready to show proof of your status. And don’t forget to ask if they have a discount for whatever group you belong to.

- **Surveys.** Many businesses routinely ask for your input in return for a 10 to 30 percent discount on your next purchase. Check the bottom or back of your receipt for an online address.
• Online coupon codes. Before you buy anything, Google “coupon codes” online. Two of the websites that gather coupon codes and post them online are retailmenot.com and coupon-codes-online.blogspot.com.

• Tickets. Next time you go to a ticketed event, check out the back of the ticket. There are often discounts on the back. The last time I attended a Nanooks hockey game, there was a discount for a local business.

• Preferred customer offers. No matter if it is a national chain or a local retailer, if you are a regular customer, you may be eligible for discounts. Some offer a discount or a free product when you reach a certain threshold. Be sure to sign up and make sure all your purchases count.

• School discounts. Being a student has its privileges and its expenses. So take advantage of those discounts. Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard and AT&T all have student discounts. Academic Superstore, Student Advantage and Campus Tech are websites that feature online discounts for their members.

• Discounts hiding in your wallet. Are you a member of a union? How about a hobby club, auto club or just about any other type of club? Most have partnered with businesses to offer modest discounts.

• Recycling programs. Some retailers and manufacturers offer discounts if you recycle their products. Go to Recyclebank.com and sign up for points for recycling products and other ways to earn points such as taking online quizzes about recycling.

Discounts are all around us. Take advantage of the ones that many of us overlook.

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