

Zero Based Budget Monthly Cash Flow Plan Instructions

The accompanying 3 tabs are an Excel version of the Monthly Cash Flow Plan that has been used for years by people following the advice of consumer advocate Dave Ramsey to do a zero based budget each month. It is set up on three pages to give the same look and feel of the paper based version of the form.

The original version of this form can be found at:

http://www.daveramsey.com/media/pdf/fpu_monthly_cash_flow_plan_forms.pdf

How to Use the Monthly Cash Flow Plan Form (by Don L. Milne):

1. Enter your monthly take home pay for the upcoming month in the box in cell N1 on Page 1
You can't budget what you don't bring home so ignore your gross pay.
2. Budget all the money you plan to spend until cell N7 shows a zero.
If the number in N7 is negative you need to revise your budget and cut back somewhere.
If the number in N7 is positive, you need to allocate it somewhere.
3. Use envelopes to spend money in shaded categories. These are areas where people overspend.
4. In a marriage, both couples need to agree to the budget.
5. The budget will not work very well during your first month. Just like any new skill, it takes time.
6. If you are frustrated with results, don't punish yourself by giving up. Your next month's budget will be better.
7. Make this a regular monthly habit.
8. These forms are free and you can pass them on to other people to help them as long as you do not charge them.