

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Shopping Tips for Tax Free Weekend

Columbia, SC... With South Carolina's annual tax free weekend starting at 12:00am, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs encourages consumers to follow these tips for staying on budget and making the most of the tax break.

- **Track your finances.** Make a budget and stick to it! Save receipts in case the item needs to be returned.
- **Make a list.** Check out what items are tax free and make a list of what you need. This simple task will help you stay on budget and avoid impulse purchases that are not tax-exempt.
- **Know the return policy.** Know the store's policies on returns, refunds and exchanges. Are full refunds given, or does the retailer only offer store credit? What is the time limit for returning an item and are there restocking fees? Look up the policy online so you know before you go.
- **Don't get schooled by a store credit card.** Interest rates on these cards can often be very high, costing more than they initially save. Also, if you're not a regular customer of the store, chances are it's a line of credit that you don't need.
- **Cash, credit or debit?** When shopping in store, choose cash if you have trouble sticking to a budget. Going online? Credit cards offer more consumer fraud protections. If using a credit card, pay the bill on time and in full to avoid interest.

For more helpful consumer tips, visit our website at [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov).

### About SCDCA

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-800-922-1594.

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