

# Choosing a budgeting system

by Ellyce Fulmore

## Spreadsheets

I know many of you may have a negative perception of spreadsheets, but I promise they aren't all bad. I created my own spreadsheet that was full of bright colors and included everything I wanted it to and I love it. Spreadsheets are very customizable, give a good overview, and can do all the math for you.

- **Excel/Google Sheet:** You can create your own, download free templates, or purchase templates off sites like Etsy.
- **Notion Board:** Use a productivity/organization platform like Notion to create a board that has a place for you to input your numbers, track expenses and even check in with your financial goals.

## Automation

Perhaps the exact opposite of using a spreadsheet is the system of automation. This system doesn't require any tracking at all. Instead it involves opening multiple accounts, one for income, one for expenses, one for spending, and one or more for savings and investing, and setting up automatic transfers from your income account to all other accounts. Essentially your money will be working and moving behind the scenes for you, so that you can be much more hands off, but still have structure to help you achieve your goals.

### **Here are some aspects I recommend automating:**

- Your monthly bills and expenses
- Your debt payments
- Your savings contributions
- Your investment contributions

In terms of how much to transfer to each account every month or every paycheck, use the numbers you came up with in the last lesson.



## Apps

There are tons of budgeting apps out there that offer a lot of different features. Budgeting apps can be great because you can link all your accounts, see real time numbers, and get alerts and notifications to your phone.

### **Some apps to try out are:**

- You Need a Budget
- Rocket Money
- Fortune City

## Other budget ideas

### **Fun printable/downloadable templates:**

Download or create your own template that you can fill out by hand either on paper or a tablet if you have one

### **Bullet journal budget:**

Create your own budgeting technique using a bullet journal based on the type of journal spreads that work for your brain and are easy to recreate each month

