



# Get \$mart About Credit



## Credit Card Tracker Description for Use & Ordering

Discovering how much you are spending for credit purchases is the first step to help you become credit savvy. After you've tracked your credit expenses you may be amazed at how much you are "really" spending. Once you are aware of the real cost, you can begin to take control of your credit use.

A Credit Card Tracker/Holder is available from MSU Extension. Wrap one around your credit card. When you use your credit card use the side **Record of Credit Card** to track your expenses. List the date, description of charge and the amount charged. After each purchase add the amount to the previous balance or expense (See Example below).

This will provide you with a "running total" of your credit expenses and enable you to become aware of the amount to expect on your monthly credit card bill. In this example \$160 is the amount owed.

If you don't have a credit card, use the tracker to become aware of your total **cash** or **debit** card expenses.

The Tracker also has a place for you to list your personal limits for using credit and questions to ask yourself before using credit. The MSU Get Smart About Credit Web site has more information ([www.creditsmarts.montana.edu](http://www.creditsmarts.montana.edu).)

You can also order **free** Credit Card Trackers at the Web site or from:

Keri Hayes  
Extension Economics  
P.O. Box 172800  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2800  
Phone: (406) 994-3511  
E-mail: [khayes@montana.edu](mailto:khayes@montana.edu)  
Or order online at: [www.msuextension.org/store](http://www.msuextension.org/store)

### Example: With Balances

RECORD OF CREDIT CARD: <u>Visa</u>		
Date	Description of Charge	Amount Charged
06/25/05	Birthday Gift	\$ 25.00
		\$25.00
07/03/05	Fireworks	\$45.00
		\$70.00
07/15/05	Gas for car	\$25.00
		\$95.00
08/01/05	New dress suit	\$65.00
		\$160.00