

# SAVE XMAS

It can be difficult to weigh up all the different options when you're saving for Christmas. This flow chart could help you assess the different options.

## What's important to you when you're saving for Christmas?

I want my money to be protected

It mustn't be too easy for me to get at the money before Christmas – I might spend it on other things

They must collect the money from my home, and deliver the goods to my home

Is it important to you that interest will be paid on your money?

Would the prospect of closing an account and losing interest or giving a few weeks' notice be enough to stop you dipping into the money?

Do you mind being tied to a particular supplier?

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

I really want to get a bonus on my money

A credit union account could meet your needs – you may also get a bonus or dividend payment.

Other options you might want to consider are bank and building society accounts. These accounts keep your money safe, and also pay interest. Some even pay a bonus.

Hamper schemes belonging to the Christmas Prepayments Association have arrangements in place to protect your money. Ask about the level of protection before you use them.

There are several options that might be suitable for you:

- a savings account with a bank or building society that requires you to give notice to withdraw money
- credit union and building society Christmas accounts will often not pay the promised dividend or bonus if you withdraw the money early
- the Post Office Christmas Club allows you to save at any Post Office. You can only withdraw your money once before 1st November and there will be a charge.

Hamper schemes and savings schemes with supermarkets, local shops or your milkman often make it difficult for you to take out the money you have saved before Christmas.

A Christmas hamper scheme that pays out in vouchers will give you some choice where to buy, but you will not have a completely free choice. Before you start saving, make sure you're happy with the selection of shops that you can spend your vouchers in.

Hamper companies and hampers from a milkman will collect from your home and deliver the hampers direct to your door. The Save Xmas leaflet gives you more information about these schemes.

Before you start saving, make sure you know that your money will be protected. Check with the company to find out what safeguards are in place.

**Yes**

**No**

A special building society Christmas account will protect your money and pay interest and a bonus.

But these accounts aren't very widely available, so you may need to look at other options

A standard bank or building society savings account will protect your money and pay you interest. Some of them pay also a bonus.

### Alternatives:

You could also consider joining a credit union – they don't pay interest, but some pay dividends and bonuses. They can also be useful if you later need to borrow money.