CASH SPLAINED

Paycheck Collision Check

Your worksheet - put every payment on one calendar before you commit.

1 Start with the whole purchase

Item / plan: _____

All-in price: $ _____ Total repayment: $ _____

Interest / fees: _____

2 List every payment in this paycheck window

Money available on: _____ Next income date: _____

Include all plans; exclude payments already deducted from available cash. Add rows if needed.

Due date	Purchase / provider	Amount	Paid / pending

Total due before the next income date: $ _____

3 Check the money that is actually available

A. Available cash + reliable income in this window	$ _____
B. Essentials and other committed costs	$ _____
C. Cushion you want to protect	$ _____
D. Available for installments: A - B - C	$ _____
E. Installments due (total above)	$ _____
F. Headroom or gap: D - E	$ _____

4 Check the terms before you click

Confirm total cost, exact dates, payment method, late/failed-payment terms, reporting policy, and returns. Keep the agreement and schedule.

A positive total is not enough if money arrives after a payment is due. Check the day-by-day order. A negative result means revisit the purchase or budget.

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Worked example - all-in prices, four equal payments, no interest or fees.

1 Three purchases, one bank account

Purchase	Total	Each	Four payment dates
Drill	$240	$60	Nov 6 / Nov 20 / Dec 4 / Dec 18
Boots	$120	$30	Nov 13 / Nov 27 / Dec 11 / Dec 25
Gift	$200	$50	Nov 20 / Dec 4 / Dec 18 / Jan 1

Dates run from November 2026 to January 2027. Total purchases: $560.

Earlier installments were paid from earlier periods. Do not subtract them again. The next paycheck arrives December 4, so this window ends December 3.

2 November 20 through December 3

Nov 20: drill $60 + gift $50 = $110

Nov 27: boots $30

Total: $140

3 Compare payments with the chosen budget

Paycheck; no other available cash	**$1,000**
Bills	**- $650**
Living costs	**- $180**
Protected cushion	**- $50**
Available for installments	**$120**
Installments in this window	**- $140**
Budget gap	**- $20**

After the November 20 payments, $10 remains in the purchase budget. The $30 boots payment creates a $20 gap. Using the cushion would leave $30 of it.

Before buying the gift: $60 + $30 = $90 due, leaving $30 in the purchase budget. This is an alternative decision before buying, not cancellation of an existing debt.

A budget gap is not automatically a bank overdraft. Actual fees and obligations depend on the account and plan. For returns, verify any payment pause or adjustment.

Source notes: consumerfinance.gov (BNPL) and transunion.com/buy-now-pay-later.