# Does Spending Holiday Green Make You

If you have not already begun probably at least started thinking about it.

According to Daniel J. Collins. your holiday shopping, you have. Jr., CPA, president, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accoutants (PICPA), you might also

want to start thinking about how to pay for those holiday purchases in light of the phasing out of the income tax interest deduction for

consumer debt.

This year, only 65 percent of consumer debt increase from credit cards, auto loans and personal loans, is deductible. Next year it drops to 40 percent; in 1989, 20 percent; 10 percent in 1990, and is finally eliminated in 1991.

### HOW TO PAY

The best way to pay for holiday gifts is, of course, with cash.

A home equity loan is a possibil--ity; after all, the interest on it is generally still deductible. But think carefully about whether you want to put your home up as collateral for holiday gifts. Because that is, in effect, what you would be doing.

If credit is your only alternative, there are a number of steps you can take to make it less expensive. First, if you use a credit card, use a card that has a low interest rate. Be sure to pay your bill off as soon as possible. Paying the monthly minimum is tempting, but expensive.

Another possibility is a loan

from a credit union if you belong to one. Generally, the credit union's interest rate will be lower than that of a credit card and probably lower than most banks.

### **USE YOUR HEAD**

If you must use credit for your holiday shopping, also use your head. Set spending limits for yourself and stick to them. Avoid the temptation to buy something just because you have a roll of money in your pocket or can put it on your credit card. In addition, while you're out at the mall, stop by your bank and open a holiday account. That way, you will not have to borrow to pay for next year's presents.

This column on Money Management, providing practical tips on how to develop a personal financial plan, is distributed regularly by the PICPA. The PICPA is the second oldest state organization of CPAs in the country with a membership of over 15,000 people serving the public and the financial community.



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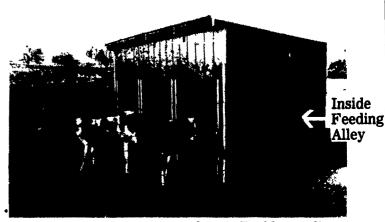
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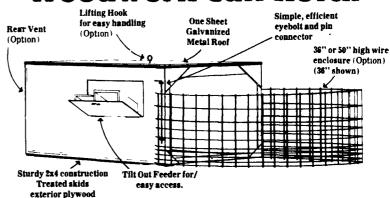
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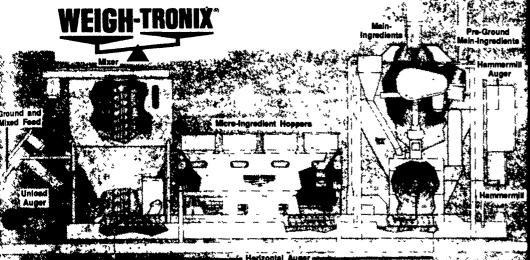
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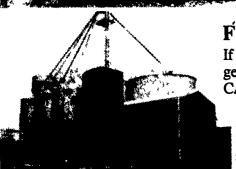
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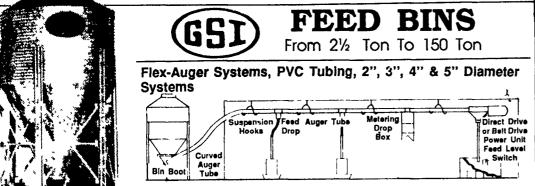


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