

# How to Get Free Stuff

<http://freebies4mom.com>



**Heather Hernandez shares her tips on how to get things for free!**

## **Free Samples**

There is nothing better than getting free samples in your mailbox and companies are competing for the opportunity to market to you directly by delivering a free sample to your mailbox. Free samples are not just those small sample pouches, but often full-size products just like you would buy at the store. How do you find and request these free samples? Get on the internet and start surfing. You can visit message boards like Hot Coupon World

(<http://www.hotcouponworld.com/forums/freebies-individuals/>) that cover not just the free samples but also the best store deals and coupons. Most people are overwhelmed with the amount of information shared on message boards, so that's where frugal bloggers like me step-in to point you in the direction of freebies you actually want. At Freebies4mom.com (<http://freebies4mom.com/>) I give my readers the links to the best samples available, these are samples that come directly from the manufacturer or a well-known retailer. The best source of free samples is Wal-Mart (<http://instoresnow.walmart.com/In-Stores-Now-Free-Samples.aspx>). If you were to visit one website, once a week for free samples, Wal-Mart would be that website for the best variety of samples. And since most samples come with money-saving coupons, you get more than just a sample. I recommend avoiding any free sample that requires participation in a qualifying offer. These are usually offered by third-party entities that are trying to rope you into buying something.

## **Help Spread the Word**

If you are interested in helping to spread the word about new products after you get a chance to try them for free, then you should sign-up for word-of-mouth programs. Companies have set-up these programs to be easy to participate in by making follow-up surveys optional to complete. This is a popular new trend in the free sampling world because companies encourage you to do their marketing for them by providing you with money-saving coupons to pass out to your friends, as well as free products for you to try yourself. Some of these word-of-mouth programs include Vocalpoint (<http://site.vocalpoint.com/guest/whatis.html>) by P&G, Pssst (<http://pssst.generalmills.com/join.php>) by General Mills, Kraft First Taste (<http://www.kraftfirsttaste.com/about/default.aspx>), and SheSpeaks (<http://www.shespeaks.com/>). It's easy to sign-up for, and it's up to you how much

you want to participate in the online activities offered. You can also throw a party around a product, and get all your party favors for free by applying for House Party (<http://houseparty.com/>). This is a great way to try some cool products for free and share them with your friends.

### **My Favorite Companies**

When a recipe for "Ultimate Party Meatballs" arrived on my doorstep along with a can of Ocean Spray Cranberry sauce and a bottle of Heinz Cocktail Sauce, you better believe it left a favorable impression on me (and I tried the recipe of course). Thanks to my free membership in the Ocean Spray Cranberry Club (<http://www.oceanspray.com/club/>) I get surprised by free products to try like this. Dove ([http://www.dove.us/#/haircare/?source=dove\\_s&page=samples](http://www.dove.us/#/haircare/?source=dove_s&page=samples)) is another favorite company of mine for the numerous free samples they offer. Yogi Tea (<http://www.yogitea.com/Pages/FreeSamples.html>) has won me over with their free samples and now it's my favorite brand of tea to drink.

### **Sweepstakes**

I scope out the big sweepstakes to share with my readers so that they can win! When I say big, I mean there are at least 1,000 winners. Sweepstakes with that many winners are more like free sampling programs where you have a chance at winning a sample, instead of it being available to the first X number of people who request it. Hanes is giving away 20,000 pairs of underwear in their Wedgie –Free Wednesday Sweepstakes (<http://www.wedgiefree.com/>). They've mailed me four pairs so far, I got to select my size and the style I wanted. All I had to do was enter once each week, and I'm winning again and again. Dole wants to spread the word about their new salads and is offering 15,000 coupons for a free bag of Dole Salad (<http://www.winfredolesalad.com/>). You just enter daily until you win, and most of my readers playing the sweeps with me have won their free salad. Of course the sweeps offer bigger prizes too, and recently I've heard from my readers who have won a Wii, Ipod, and jogging stroller by entering sweepstakes that I shared with them on my blog.

### **Why Spend the Time?**

It's frugal and fun to get free samples. You get to try things for free that you normally wouldn't buy at the store. Then you get to decide if it's worth buying for your household in the future. Some free samples are purely indulgent, and what mom doesn't need a little spoiling? But free samples aren't just for moms, in fact most of the free samples I link to on my blog are available to anyone with a mailing address within the United States.