

# AWS Cost-Saving Checklist for Small Businesses

*Practical steps to reduce monthly AWS bills without complex tools*

- **Rightsize Your Instances** – Review EC2 usage regularly. Downsize underutilised instances (e.g., move from t3.large to t3.medium). Use AWS Cost Explorer to identify low-usage resources.
- **Use Auto Scaling** – Enable auto-scaling groups for applications with variable traffic. Avoid paying for idle capacity by scaling down during quiet periods.
- **Turn Off Unused Resources** – Shut down dev/test instances outside business hours. Use AWS Instance Scheduler or Lambda scripts for automation.
- **Switch to Reserved or Savings Plans** – For workloads running >65% of the time, buy Reserved Instances or Savings Plans. Savings range from 30%–70% compared to on-demand pricing.
- **Use S3 Storage Classes Wisely** – Move infrequently accessed data to S3 Standard-IA or Glacier. Enable lifecycle policies to automatically archive old files.
- **Monitor Data Transfer Costs** – Minimise cross-region data transfers. Use CloudFront CDN for faster, cheaper content delivery.
- **Use AWS Trusted Advisor (Free Tier Checks)** – Run cost optimisation checks in Trusted Advisor. Review idle load balancers, unused EBS volumes, and unattached IPs.
- **Tag Everything** – Apply cost-allocation tags to all resources. Helps identify and shut down unused or duplicate services.
- **Leverage Free Tier & Credits** – Use AWS Free Tier services for dev/test environments. Apply for AWS Activate Credits (for startups/entrepreneurs).
- **Regular Monthly Reviews** – Schedule a monthly review of AWS bills. Track trends with AWS Budgets and set up cost alerts.

**Tip:** Start with just 3 actions from this checklist and measure your savings in the first month.

■ Need help implementing? Contact: [your.email@example.com](mailto:your.email@example.com)