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### DEAL OR NO DEAL: BUYING GROCERIES AT THE DRUGSTORE?

(BOSTON, Oct. 5) With more and more non-food retail stores enlarging their grocery sections, is it a good deal to buy groceries at your local drugstore? No deal, according to a new Boston-area survey released today by the consumer education website ConsumerWorld.org.

On a market basket of some two-dozen items, the study found that the average drugstore charged a full 50-percent more than the least expensive supermarket -- \$102.94 versus \$68.55.

For example, a can of Maxwell House coffee was \$6.99 at Walgreens, but only \$3.49 at Market Basket. A pint of Ben & Jerry's ice cream was \$6.29 at CVS, but only \$3.99 at Shop & Shop. And a box of Lipton tea bags was \$5.19 at Rite Aid, but only \$2.99 at Shaw's and Market Basket.

"Drugstores are not doing shoppers any favors by carrying groceries at convenience store prices," commented Edgar Dworsky, founder of Consumer World. "We are not talking about just a penny or two difference per item, but as much as a dollar or two in some cases."

The spot check of prices of 25 common items was conducted on October 2 at six stores in Somerville: Walgreens, Rite Aid, CVS, Stop & Shop, Shaw's and Market Basket.

Among the drug chains, Rite Aid was the most expensive with the market basket of items costing \$107.96, while CVS was the "least expensive" at \$98.12. Among the supermarket chains, Shaw's was the most expensive at \$83.56 despite coincidentally having 10 of the items on sale, while Market Basket was the cheapest at a low \$68.55 with only four items on sale.

To save the most, Dworsky advises consumers to comparison shop, to check the ads of both supermarkets and drugstores, and then to cherry-pick the best deals.

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[See attached chart of the items surveyed]

Drugstore vs. Supermarket Price Comparison Survey for Groceries												
Oct. 2011												
Item	Walgreens		Rite Aid		CVS		Stop & Shop		Shaw's		Market Basket	
Planters peanuts 16 oz	4.79		4.99		3.59		3.00	sale	2.99	sale	2.99	
Pringles 6.41 oz	1.99	sale	2.00	sale	1.50	sale	1.50	sale	1.50	sale	1.50	
Edy's Grand Ice Cream 48 oz	5.99		6.49		6.29		3.00	sale	5.99	bogo	2.99	sale
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream 16 oz	4.99		5.29		6.29		3.99		5.77		3.49	
Eggs, large white dozen	1.89		2.49		2.89		1.99		2.19		1.59	
Whole milk, gallon, least expensive brand	3.69		3.69		3.69		2.99		2.99		2.69	
Cheez-its 9 oz	3.29		3.79		3.29		2.00	sale	3.19		2.29	
Oreos Double Stuff 16.6 oz	4.49		4.49		4.59		3.29		2.99	sale	3.00	sale
Pecan Sandies 13 oz	3.99		4.49		2.50	sale	3.49		3.79		2.50	
Special K cereal 12oz	5.29		4.99		4.19		3.39		2.99	sale	3.00	
Lipton tea bags 100 ct	4.49		5.19		3.79		3.49		2.99	sale	2.99	
Maxwell House coffee 11.5 oz	6.99		6.49		5.49		4.99		3.99	sale	3.49	
Betty Crocker brownies 18.x oz	1.99	sale	2.69		2.77		1.69		1.69		1.50	
Campbell's Chunky beef soup	3.29		3.29		3.29		1.67	sale	2.99		2.50	
Green Giant corn 15.25 oz	1.69		1.59		1.67		1.25		1.49		0.75	sale
Bumble Bee chunk lite tuna 5oz	1.29		1.49		1.49		0.80	sale	1.19		0.80	
Kraft Macaroni and Cheese 7.25 oz	1.79		1.99		1.49		1.25		1.09	sale	1.34	
Coke 2 liter	1.99		1.99		1.87		1.69		1.79		1.34	
Pepsi 2 liter	1.89		1.69		1.50	sale	1.50	sale	1.50	sale	1.50	
Campbell's Cream of Mushroom soup	1.69		1.59		1.59		1.00	sale	1.00	sale	1.25	
Scott toilet tissue 4pk	4.19		4.99		3.49	sale	3.89		3.99		3.49	
Tide 100 oz	15.99		17.49		15.29		11.99	sale	11.99	sale	11.99	sale
Finish dishwasher det 20 tabs	5.79		6.49		6.29		4.99		4.99		3.99	
Windex 26 oz	4.49		3.99		4.29		3.00	sale	4.29		2.99	
Formula 409	4.79		4.29		4.99		2.85		4.19		2.59	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	102.75		107.96		98.12		74.69		83.56	68.55
				Avg. drugstore total:	102.94			Average supermarket total:		75.60		
				The average drugstore was 36% higher than the average supermarket on these items in Somerville. Prices vary area to area, and from week to week.								