

The Top 10 Things to Expect When You're Starting a New Home Job

One of the major perks of the digital age is that your office is now wherever your laptop happens to be! As traffic in and out of cities gets more congested and real estate prices continue to rise, companies and employees alike are taking advantage of the option of working from home. Setting yourself up for success in a so-called "home job" is a little more complicated than opening up your laptop and getting to work, but there are major perks to running a flexible business from your couch. If you're thinking about setting up a business from home, these are 10 things you should expect from the process.

1. Decide what kind of work you can/want to do.

First things first- you'll need to decide what kind of work you *want* to do and what kind of work you *can actually* do. Keep in mind that you'll be the person managing your workload and responsible for meeting deadlines, finding new clients, and all of the minutiae in between. Before you get all geared up to take your skills into the home business start-up world, you'll need to look at what your skills can cover, what you will need to outsource, and how much you can realistically handle while maintaining high work standards. This leads directly to the next step which is...

2. Check the industry trends.

Particularly in the marketing world, a lot of professionals are finding that they can set up home businesses without too much trouble. This is the sort of work that can be done by a driven individual with industry experience, and it's a relatively low cost to set up. [Network marketing](#) is a perfect example, as the entire premise is based on person-to-person sales by independent representatives. This is exactly the kind of work that can be done from home without oversight by a boss or administrator. Similarly, affiliate marketing is a rewards-based setup where the business rewards an affiliate for each visitor or customer that is driven to their site by your marketing methods.

In both of those cases, using industry tools and expertise, it would be easy to become a freelancer and work from home for a network of private clients. This also goes for many sales positions and copywriting positions. There are plenty of jobs available that are good for working from home, and you can [find out more from this article](#).

3. Research your worth.

Before you get started, you'll want to know what kind of pricing you should have in place to be competitive but still at industry value. [Glassdoor](#) is a great tool to find out about industry pricing since you can compare your service offerings with positions on the site and calculate an hourly or project-by-project rate. If you're setting up a home business start-up, you'll want to make sure that you're charging a reasonable amount.

4. Reach out to your network.

For any startup, your network is your best friend. You can test the waters by asking your personal connections whether they would be interested in your private services. You can ask them for help getting the word out about your new services. And beyond that, they're a great customer base to start with!

5. Try a freelance platform.

If your network isn't a high volume of potential clients, you can always try a freelance platform first. [Fiverr](#) is a great option for new freelancers. It's a safe and private platform with tons of oversight and methods of reporting spam or unpleasant clients. Additionally, it keeps track of your earnings and gives you an idea of how much you could make each month after tracking the number of orders you get from potential clients. This will also give you an idea of how much demand there is for your services and by extension, how much work you can expect outside of the freelance platform.

6. Dip your toe first.

While there are tons of perks to working from home, it's a good idea to try it in a non-permanent way before you commit to it full time. For some people, the lack of social outlets and the absence of a team isn't a good setup for the long term. For others, it's the perfect setup that meets all of your needs. But before you turn in your resignation, it's a good idea to try the lifestyle and see if it will work for you.

7. Reach out to businesses about an ongoing collaboration.

If you continually provide high-quality work, you're likely to see repeat customers who are interested in ongoing services. You can always discuss these options with a business to see if they will allow you the flexibility you want but guarantee a certain number of hours or projects per month. This will give your home startup some more stability, without adding an overbearing boss or office lifestyle back into the mix.

8. Set some personal guidelines.

One of the main problems people from home tend to face is a lack of work/life balance. Your home is now your office and your office is now your home. It can be tough to draw the line between work and relaxation when your laptop is right over there and your email is blowing up and even though it's Friday night it would be so easy to take care of more work. To combat this, set some personal guidelines for the amount of work you do per week, the hours you work, and when your hard stop might be.

9. Create a productive space.

Another point to combat is a lack of motivation. When you can work from your couch or your bed, it can be tough to motivate yourself to get all of your work done. If you're starting a remote job, a good way to set yourself up for success is to create a productive space. Set up your desk or work corner, make sure it's comfortable, and designate that as your work spot.

10. Emphasize communication.

When your business begins and ends with you, being responsive is critical to building a client base. You'll need to communicate effectively with your client to be sure you are delivering what they are expecting. Set the expectation that you will respond to them within 1 business day and make sure you know what you need from your clients to deliver the high quality work that you're promising.

Jobs that allow you to work from home are a fantastic option if you need flexibility or are constantly sitting in traffic on your daily commute... or even if reporting to superiors is sucking the life out of you. In many cases, the freedom to choose how much you actually want or need to work opens up a whole new world of possibilities and dramatically improve your work/life balance. If you're planning on removing a boss

from the equation and creating an at-home business for yourself, these 10 things are a good place to start so you can set yourself up for long term success!