

# May Newsletter



*“The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually fear that you will make one.”  
– Elbert Hubbard*

## DO'S AND DON'TS OF WORKING FROM HOME

Source: flexjobs.com, themuse.com

As the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily shuts offices, countless employees are suddenly working from home. For many, this transition represents a major lifestyle shift—but the trend towards remote work is nothing new. In fact, it has increased by over 150 percent in the last twelve years and is expected to continue growing in the future. Therefore, now is a great time for employees to adapt to working outside of a traditional office environment.

Whether you're new to remote work or have been detached from the office for years, here are a few do's and do not's to help ensure that your work-from-home arrangement is comfortable, functional, and productive:

**Do get dressed.** One of the most common challenges of working from home is maintaining separation between work and your personal life. Without this separation, you could find yourself working at all hours of the day, which may ultimately lead to burnout. Taking simple steps like getting dressed in the morning—even if it just means taking a quick shower and changing from your pajamas into a comfortable, casual outfit—will help you psychologically maintain a boundary between work and leisure.

**Don't succumb to distractions.** Working from home allows you to avoid certain distractions, like chatty coworkers or unnecessarily long meetings. However, you may encounter several new distractions, such as housework, family obligations, or the constant temptation of scrolling through social media. When you notice that your focus is faltering, remind yourself that any time spent on distractions will ultimately prolong your workday, making it far more difficult to maintain “normal business hours.”

To avoid this, consider turning off notifications on your phone or using an app to block certain websites while you are working, and set a timer when you take a break.

**Do communicate with your team.** Working remotely can feel isolating and may also cause a lack of clarity regarding expectations about how and when work is completed. Whether you are reporting to your boss, collaborating with coworkers, or managing a team, prioritizing communication will be even more important than it is at the office. To avoid misunderstandings, establish a schedule for when you and your team will check in with each other via phone calls, video conferencing, or other means of communication.

**Don't neglect your social life.** When you work with colleagues for eight or more hours each week day, it's easy to get your “social fix.” But when making a sudden transition to working from home—particularly under ominous circumstances like the coronavirus pandemic—it is normal to feel lonely. To combat these glum feelings while still maintaining social distancing, try to observe your usual social rituals. For example, if you typically enjoy lunch with coworkers once a week, make a date to have a virtual luncheon via Zoom or a similar app.



# LEMON BARS

Source: foodnetwork.com

## Ingredients:

For the crust:

- 1/2 pound unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

For the filling:

- 6 extra-large eggs at room temperature
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest (4 to 6 lemons)
- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 cup flour
- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

## Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

For the crust, cream the butter and sugar until light in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Combine the flour and salt and, with the mixer on low, add to the butter until just mixed. Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and gather into a ball. Flatten the dough with floured hands and press it into a 9 by 13 by 2-inch baking sheet, building up a 1/2-inch edge on all sides. Chill.

Bake the crust for 15 to 20 minutes, until very lightly browned. Let cool on a wire rack. Leave the oven on.

For the filling, whisk together the eggs, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and flour. Pour over the crust and bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until the filling is set. Let cool to room temperature.

Cut into triangles and dust with confectioners' sugar.



# HOW TO CONTINUE YOUR HOME SEARCH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Source: realtor.com

Generally, spring is the busiest season for real estate—but as with most other areas of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has rendered this spring unimaginably different. A few short months ago, many places were experiencing a strong seller's market, with high demand from buyers and low housing inventory. However, due to "social distancing" measures, many prospective buyers are delaying their house hunts.

Despite the challenges and tragedies of this unprecedented situation, home buyers are suddenly facing much less competition—an advantage that could disappear once fears of the virus abate. If you are searching for a new home at this time, here are a few tips for continuing your house hunt from a safe distance:

Scour listing photos for red flags. Since you might not be able to instantly see a home in person, pay particularly close attention to what the listing photos are showing you—and what they're not showing. For example, if there are more photos of the exterior than the interior, it could be an indication that the interior needs work; if the blinds are closed in a photo, they could be hiding an

unappealing view; and if photos appear stretched out, they may have been modified to make rooms appear larger.

Ask your realtor or the listing agent to give you a more realistic view of the home via FaceTime. After reviewing the listing photos and virtual tours, think about concerns you may have or parts of the home of which you'd like a more up-close view. Coordinate with the agent to show you these spots using FaceTime.

Scope out the neighborhood. As always, location is arguably the most important factor to consider when you are choosing a new home. Fortunately, tools like Google Earth allow you to get a feel for a neighborhood without leaving the safety of your current abode.



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

