5 Tips for Graphic Designers Who Work Remotely at Home

It’s great that you landed a remote graphic designer gig. You’ll have no more stressful drives to the office and you’ll have the ability to take walks when you want. You can schedule medical appointments during the week instead of trying to find early or late hours, and you can work all night and sleep all day if you choose.

What could be better?

Whether you live in a studio apartment in Chicago, where the expensive rent prices might hinder your ability to lease an actual office; or a cheap apartment in Milwaukee, Wisconsin which allows you to have a spare bedroom for a workspace at home, you’ll need to ensure you have the ideal working environment.

Maybe you think you have found the perfect workplace solution, but there are some things you need to get in order first no matter where you live and work.

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Wi-Fi Is Not Always Your Friend

You obviously need a reliable Internet connection to be able to work at home and wired is always better that wireless.

Wi-Fi can be great as you can move to the backyard, the porch, or even sit in your car, but if your connection is iffy, you won’t get anything done. Many programs like Adobe Creative Cloud are now web-based, and you may need to be online to use them. Go ahead and put ethernet connections in every room if you must but wired is much more reliable than wireless.

Buy A Good Computer

You may have been using a powerful work computer that was linked to a massive server, and now your trusty personal laptop may just not be powerful enough to handle the things you need to do. Talk to a knowledgeable IT tech about the things that make a computer reliable and fast like:

- Processor
- Cache
- Memory
- BUS Speed
- Video cards
- Operating systems

Make sure your tech knows exactly what you want your machine to accomplish before you purchase a new one.

Hard Drive

Anyone that has switched from a standard to a solid state hard drive will never go back. Solid state drives are amazingly fast. A Windows update that would take 30 minutes on a computer with a standard hard drive can take seconds with a solid-state drive. Boot-up times are also minimized, and the solid-state upgrade is one to seriously consider.

Working at Home

Note that we said “working.” Remember you will have the temptations of your fridge, the TV, the couch, your garden, and even your bed. Working at home takes discipline, and this can mean setting limits for yourself.

Many successful remote workers set up a nice office at home and don’t use it for anything else. They finish a certain amount of work before they take a break or go to the gym, and they try to keep distractions at a minimum.

The Other Side

Some people get so involved in remote work, that they just

can’t break away. The computer is always there, and the office is a few steps away. They can’t walk past the workspace without checking email or doing a last-minute edit. Work never goes away, and free time is crowded out. In this case, limits on work should be set so that your job doesn’t consume your life.

It’s all about balance. If you can get your work done and still have some personal time, working at home could be the thing for you. If you find that you feel weird staying at home all day, or if you just can’t get anything done, think about trying a shared workspace. You’ll have great Internet, there may be some perks like free snacks and beverages, and it will get you out of the house while preserving your independence.

Working remotely may require some adjustments, but more and more people like the flexibility it can bring.

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