



Socially distanced offices think inside the (cardboard) box

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Want to get back to work? Put your staff in a cardboard box. That is the advice of a British company making social distancing screens from recycled cardboard to help businesses open up after lockdown while keeping staff safe.

1. Want to get your employees back to work, _____

2. One British company thinks they have the solution: _____

3. The designers call these social distancing screens, _____

4. Ian Hulmes _____

"As people have started to come back to work we've switched to making a range of distancing-at-work products such as free-standing screens, counter screens and desk partitions."

5. The company based in central England, _____

6. But it's now developed this new range of products _____

7. They include wall screens, table dividers _____

"One of our workers at home found that she was struggling to work so we created a pop-up desk. That desk has sold over 5,000 units in just five weeks."

8. You can even get your cardboard box _____

[Vocabulary]

- **on the cheap:** for a low price or at very little cost; inexpensively
 - *You want new carpets? My brother-in-law can get them on the cheap from a friend of his.*
 - *The store is selling all of its merchandise on the cheap as part of its liquidation sale.*
- **cardboard:** very stiff thick paper, used especially for making boxes
 - *...a life-size cardboard cut-out of a police officer.*
 - *This box is made of cardboard.*
- **cardboard box:** it is industrially prefabricated **boxes**, primarily used for packaging goods and materials and can also be recycled
 - *There were three hundred cardboard boxes filled with old clothes ready to be sent to the disaster.*
 - *Tom opened a cardboard box marked "living room stuff."*
- **free-standing:** unattached to a supporting unit or background; standing alone; something - usually furniture, cabinets or appliances, that can remain in the appropriate upright position on its own without help from external forces or without being bolted or attached to the wall.
 - *It is the only free-standing tower where the public can go to the top.*
 - *The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a freestanding bell tower.*
- **recyclable:** able to be recycled
 - *...a separate bin for recyclable waste products*
 - *All plastic bottles are 100 per cent recyclable.*
- **pallet:** a flat wooden or metal surface used for moving or storing heavy goods
 - *The warehouse will hold more than 90,000 pallets storing 30 million Easter eggs.*
 - *They are usually stacked on wooden pallets in cardboard boxes, all aimed at keeping prices low.*
- **range:** a group of products of the same type that a particular company makes or that a particular store sells
 - *Try our new range of beauty products.*
 - *We stock a wide range of office furniture.*
- **cope with:** to satisfy or fulfill; to manage to deal with someone or something
 - *I don't think I can cope with any more trouble.*
 - *I can't cope with your being late for work anymore.*
- **workplace:** the place where you work; used in general for referring to places where people work
 - *discrimination in the workplace*

□ **pop-up**: to appear very quickly or suddenly

• *A pop-up book, usually a children's book, has pictures that stand up when you open the pages.*

• *A pop-up toaster has a mechanism that pushes slices of bread up when they are toasted.*

□ **homeworker**: a person who does paid work at home. People who work from home using a computer and phone can be called telecommuters.

• *How do you find life as a homeworker?*

• *You can become a flexible-working dad or you can become a homeworker, or you may be unemployed.*

□ **struggle**: to try hard to do something that you find very difficult

• *He struggled a little at first, but he reads well now.*

• *She was struggling to cope with the demands of her work.*

□ **customize**: to change the way something looks or works so that it is exactly what you want or need; If you customize something, you change its appearance or features to suit your tastes or needs.

• *You can use the control panel to customize Windows.*

• *...a control that allows photographers to customize the camera's basic settings.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]