

## How Can People Grow in the Wake of the Pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic that took the world by storm last 2019 has indubitably altered and impacted everyone's lives in one way or another. Life in countries that employed strict preventive measures early on, such as New Zealand and Vietnam, to mitigate the effects and spread of the COVID virus is slowly regaining a semblance of normalcy. But for the rest of the world who are still fighting tooth and nail to contain the seemingly endless rise of positive cases, going back to *normal* remains to be a pipe dream.

### **Where we are in the COVID timeline**

At present, various parts of the world are well on their way to inoculating their populace with anti-COVID vaccines, but when the outbreak will end continues to be unanswered as scientists are confronted by a mutating virus with multiple variants popping up like mushrooms across the globe. While the future might be unclear, what our present predicament has made crystal are the obvious limitations of the world's healthcare systems and various governments' unpreparedness in combating a global health crisis.

### **Lessons from the pandemic**

Imagine a post-pandemic world. Great battles of life and death have been fought and finally, the virus has been well-contained and defeated. What steps shall we take from here on out? History has never failed to be a good teacher and it would do us good to look back and assess the facts that highlighted our COVID odyssey. Government complacency, medical misinformation, and unscientific policies are some of the most notorious factors that complicated the battle against COVID-19. Coupled with already underfunded healthcare systems that could not support the sheer demand of the crisis as it persisted, especially in developing countries, the ultimate price was paid for by people's lives.

Furthermore, the economic impact brought on by widespread and prolonged lockdowns has launched unemployment and poverty rates at staggering highs. Vulnerable communities were at the mercy of a double-edged sword. Because while COVID might not kill you, hunger will. The ravaging effects of the pandemic revealed the already fragile systems governments have put in place to address healthcare, financial assistance, and food security.

## **Moving forward**

Rebuilding from the pandemic rubble will truly be difficult, especially for those who were already struggling pre-pandemic, therefore it is high time that world leaders take the initiative to focus on the things that truly matter and take heed from experts so we can prevent future pandemics from happening. Scientists have long sounded the alarm about the possible outbreak of a novel coronavirus, yet the world was still caught unaware and unprepared when it happened. Only when governments strengthen preventive measures, implement sound programs, and empower communities shall the world be successful in evolving for the better. May this collective experience of ours as we traverse the daily challenges of living in the time of a pandemic guide our future actions and serve as a stepping stone from which we can progress into a brighter, healthier tomorrow.

## **Which Business Is Best in the Future?**

Thinking of the future is daunting, more so when contemplating the future of business in this ever-changing, technologically advanced world. But while it can be a bit scary, it can never hurt to plan and take advantage of potential businesses that will be *hot* in years to come. Most of our day-to-day transactions can now be made online so we can only assume that the world of business will continue in its technology and web-based path. In this article, our team gathered some of the best up-and-coming online and e-commerce business ideas that'll surely do well in the future.

## **Who are the biggest spenders of the next decade?**

While planning for your future business, we argue that one of the most important things to consider is your target market. Who will have the biggest hold in the market in the foreseeable future? According to CB Insights, millennials and Gen Zers are becoming the most impactful and influential spenders of the next decade, therefore if you want to succeed in your future business venture, catching the attention and indulging in the interests of these two generations is the way to go.

## **Best online business ideas**

*Instagram Consulting.* Is your phone glued to your hand? Do you want to make money off of it? Are you tech-savvy and knowledgeable enough about the art of *hashtags* and the ways

of Instagram? Most businesses aren't aware of the power of Instagram as a marketing platform or are yet to unlock its full potential. Seize this opportunity and start a career in Instagram consulting to help businesses expand their market and attract prospective customers by creating attractive video ads, writing engaging content, tapping social media influencers, and a lot more.

***Search Engine Optimization (SEO).*** Venturing into the world of SEO will open a lot of opportunities and possibilities. As we mentioned earlier, daily life is becoming more and more online. People log in on the internet to search for the best restaurants in the area or what they should have for dessert. *Is professional carpet cleaning worth it? Where can I buy manga books online?* Thousands upon thousands of website owners need the service of SEO experts to improve the search engine ranking of their content. A good way to start is concentrating on a specific niche, such as education or healthcare, and building your portfolio. With retainer fees of \$501-\$1,000 monthly, mastering the trade of SEO to rack in a steady stream of clients is turning out to be a lucrative business of the future.

***Website Flipping.*** Do you have *sick* website design and building skills? A relatively new business idea, website flipping, much like flipping houses, includes acquiring an already existing website, renovating its features, and finally putting it back in the market for a quick profit. Some of the website-flipping platforms where you can buy and sell websites and domains for the right price are Flippa and Trademysite.

***Dropshipping.*** With the circumstances brought about by the COVID pandemic, a lot of customers are now shifting towards online shopping prompting the rise of more and more online businesses. Do you want to set up your own online store but don't have the resources to produce your own goods? You might wanna try dropshipping. Dropshipping is the process of acting as a middleman between customers and the main supplier. Customers place their orders in your store, you forward their requests to your main supplier, and they in turn package and send the products directly to your buyers! It's simple and hassle-free, especially for budding small-business owners.

***Educational Courses.*** Knowledge is a lifelong journey, therefore there is never a shortage of people who are eager to learn a new skill or two. What are you good at? Offer educational services through podcasts, video tutorials, or one-on-one/group tutoring and charge students. Build a website to centralize everything. You can focus on teaching software proficiency classes such as Powerpoint or Excel for aspiring freelancers and business owners, language classes, or more traditional courses for students who need help understanding their subjects, all depending on your expertise. Once your business has taken off, you can even start sourcing other instructors to cater to your expanding clientele.

What are you waiting for? Start jotting down those ideas running through your head and plan the next best business of the future!

## 5 Smart Warehouse Technologies for the New Normal

Warehouses are undoubtedly the beating heart of operations of organizations ranging from small booming businesses to large enterprises. And under the present global situation, ensuring the efficient and uninterrupted flow of goods and products is a challenge, therefore, choosing the right warehouse management system (WMS) is not only fundamental but could also make or break your business. To help you choose the perfect solution based on your needs, we've compiled a list of 5 smart warehouse technologies for the new normal:

### **1. Manhattan Active Warehouse Management**

Perhaps the most innovative WMS to emerge amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Manhattan Active Warehouse Management developed by Manhattan Associates boasts of revolutionizing distribution center management. Manhattan Active WM is a cloud-based (that's right, no need for heavy in-store hardware!), versionless WMS that uses machine learning to align inventory and orders in real-time. Through its applied intelligence, clients are made aware of better distribution planning and operational decisions. It is also the first WMS to utilize gamification techniques such as awarding badges, points, and milestone achievements to engage and bolster employee performance. Furthermore, all performance summaries and data spanning the entire enterprise can be accessed from a single app with integrated slotting and picking capabilities for unified

execution. With all its impressive qualities, Manhattan Active WM places warehouse management at your fingertips!

## **2. Oracle Warehouse Management Cloud**

The Oracle WMS is one of the most famous warehouse technologies in the market right now. It caters to businesses of all sizes and houses a wide array of features. Its multi-channel fulfillment allows logistics and warehousing processes from all browser-based devices and also manages returns more efficiently through its reverse logistics management. It can manage items outside of normal warehouses too, such as stock rooms and stores through its store inventory management and fulfillment feature. One interesting benefit of availing Oracle's WMS is having access to its clever tasking and location management which assigns tasks to employees based on proximity, their capabilities, and the priority level of the task at hand.

## **3. Fishbowl Warehouse**

This next WMS is a cloud-based solution perfect for small to medium-size industries. Fishbowl offers a variety of unique features and benefits such as its Amazon integration which updates the inventory every time an Amazon order is placed. It also incorporates multiple currency preferences using Quickbook and designates currencies to vendors and consumers. And it has a Xero integration as well which allows all updates and orders in the Fishbowl Warehouse system to be reflected in the accounting software. Fishbowl Warehouse definitely brings multi-tasking to a different level!

## **4. Infor Supply Chain Management**

Infor is not a standalone WMS but is a supply chain management software with WMS as one of its core parts. It allows clients to view the wider picture of the entire supply chain and arrive at data-based decisions through connections with trading partners and devices. It has a built-in Infor Coleman AI which delivers intelligence-driven processes through the combination of collated data and its predictive insights. Specifically, its warehouse management feature utilizes 3D visual analysis and in-app labor management to expedite operational execution. It also offers support for B2B and B2C fulfillment to enhance productivity and flexibility. If you're looking for a more expansive system, look no further.

## 5. Blue Yonder

Last but not the least, Blue Yonder or formerly known as JDA WMS, is a platform that focuses on 1) labor utilization with its customizable workflows which allows productive processes to thrive while weaning processes that are no longer efficient, 2) customer service by augmenting warehouse task speed to deliver parcels to customers on time, and 3) warehouse organization through task automation, mobile accessibility of updates, dynamic task management, and improved inbound processing features and digital inventory management. This WMS is tailored to companies of all sizes.

What are you waiting for? Book a demo for any of these products today and get started with the efficient management of your warehouse!

## How to Clean Carpets the Right Way

Carpets are important aesthetic fixtures inside a home or in an office. They exude elegance, style, and comfort, but many people don't take the time to properly clean them. You may be used to simple **carpet cleaning** like vacuuming, which is okay, but this only partly gets the job done. Carpets can be difficult to replace once they've been damaged and soiled by dirt and grime to the point of no return, that's why it's crucial to maintain their quality and appearance as often as possible.

In this article, we'll teach you some tips on **how to clean carpets the right way**:

### **Vacuum dust-prone areas often**

Dust and dirt are attracted to carpets like moths to a flame, and as they accumulate over time they steal the luster of your carpets. We recommend vacuuming areas that have a high concentration of dust and dirt more than once a week to significantly improve the quality and lifespan of your carpet. These include the areas around your front door and living room, or any other part of the house you see that gets dusty often.

### **Steam-clean your carpets**

Vacuuming won't always solve your carpet cleaning woes, especially when tough stains and odors have made their way onto your carpet, that's why it's important to up the ante of your carpet

cleaning and bring out the big guns - carpet steam cleaners. You have two options, you can either go for the DIY-approach using a purchased or rented steam cleaner or hire professional carpet cleaning services from **A. Bees Lakeland Carpet Cleaners**.

When doing it yourself, make sure to follow the instruction manual on how to use the steamer. Be extra attentive too in handling carpet-cleaning solutions because they can leave dirt-attracting residue. Before using the machine, vacuum first to remove particles in the shallow areas of the carpet. Mix the solution as per the instructions, and start working carefully. Don't wet the carpet too much as this can damage the lining of the carpet and produce odors. When drying, extract water as much as you can and use fans or ventilate the area to expedite the process. After the cleaning process, you can also use vinegar as a secondary cleaning agent to get rid of any residue that may have been left behind. Use ½ cup of vinegar per one gallon of water to rinse your carpet and make sure to let it dry properly.

Contacting **A. Bees Lakeland Carpet Cleaners** for professional carpet cleaning is still the better option of having your carpets thoroughly cleaned at least twice a year, especially if you don't have the time and equipment to do the chore personally.

### **Address stains right away**

Spills and stains are unavoidable especially in a household with kids and pets, so make sure to clean stains as soon as they happen. When dealing with liquid stains, blot the affected area with a clean dry cloth. Do not rub as this will only cause the substance to seep and spread into the fibers of the carpet.

If blotting fails, you can opt to buy a carpet stain remover. Ensure first that your carpet is compatible with the stain remover by testing the carpet's colorfastness. First, apply the solution on a dry cloth and place it on an inconspicuous part of the carpet. Let it sit there for an hour. Next, blot the damp area with a dry white cloth and check if carpet dyes have transferred onto the cloth. If it did, then you have to look for another product that won't make your carpet bleed. Once you've found the right stain remover for your carpet, follow the instructions on how to use it.

Additionally, when dealing with annoying carpet odors, you don't have to look far because simple household products like baking soda can get the job done for you. Pour the baking soda on your

carpet and let it sit for 15 minutes. The baking soda will soak up the odors clinging to your carpet. After that, vacuum the area to remove the baking soda.

Knowing these steps and when to use certain cleaning methods will surely extend the life of your carpet!

## How Can I Make My Small Bathroom Look Luxurious?

Admit it, your bathroom is a sacred space. That one place you come home to to enjoy nice hot baths or energizing cold showers especially right after a tiring day at work. If you're one of those people who like spending long hours inside the bathroom and are looking to upgrade it into a luxurious piece of heaven, then you've come to the right place!

Check out these tricks that we've compiled to help make your small bathroom look bigger and more luxurious:

***Install faint lights.*** Give your bathroom an aura of mystery by installing dimmer lights. Now every time you enter your bathroom it'll feel like you're inside a spa.

***Use diagonal tiling.*** Tiling diagonally instead of the traditional upright square tiles will certainly up your floor *gaming*. Consider tiling a wall up to the ceiling too for that added luminous effect!

***Upgrade your mirror.*** Mirrors have a simple function but who said they can't be as equally eye-catching as the reflection they produce? Pick a large mirror with a unique feature or shape to accentuate the overall look of your bathroom.

***Switch your bathroom containers.*** Instead of using your bath products in the containers you bought them in, transfer them to matching containers. You can opt to use elegant glass bottles or dispensers to make your bathroom truly feel special and personal.

***Mount a painting.*** It might be unusual to see a painting or any piece of art inside a normal bathroom, but nothing speaks luxury more than a beguiling statement piece mounted on the wall of your bathroom. The more eye-catching and larger it is, the better.

***Install a skylight.*** A properly installed skylight, like the ones our friends at [Killeen Boomtown Roofing Contractors](#) do, can transform a bathroom with the addition of well placed natural light. Don't underestimate the power of natural light in a bathroom.

***Glass is gold.*** If it's within your budget, try installing a glass partition for the shower. It'll create the vision of additional space inside your small bathroom and will absolutely go well with all the decorations inside.

***Add plants.*** Putting actual living things such as plants will literally breathe life inside your bathroom. It's classy and adds a very refreshing touch.

***Touch up with metallic and gold.*** Metallic and gold accents never go out of style. Touch up your bathroom with metallic, gold, or even matte black pieces such as soap holders, towel racks, and wastebaskets.

We hope these tips can help you and remember that the best decoration is your personality so make sure that it'll reflect in your dream bathroom!