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Maintain Employee Productivity During the Holidays

The holiday season can be busy. With so many things on a person's to-do list, it's relatively easy to become overwhelmed. Oftentimes worker productivity wanes at the end of the year -- but it doesn't have to.

Motivating employees when their minds are wandering to shopping lists and party planning can be a challenge. However, it is possible to keep business operations running smoothly and efficiently. Here are some tips to maintain productivity throughout the holidays.

- Set an example. A supervisor or boss who is late arriving to work, takes long lunch hours or isn't committed to the business can set a poor example to other employees. Leading by example is one way to inspire others. Be sure the point is made that work hours are for work and not other tasks.
- Make bonuses performance-related. One way to get those year-end numbers up is to base employee bonuses on figures tallied through the end of the year. This will help motivate workers to keep striving for success regardless of the holiday season.
- Give employees time to meet outside obligations. Employees who have the time to shop and get ready for the holidays will be less likely to

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take off from work unexpectedly or spend working hours doing personal things. Give employees the opportunity to take a half day or an extended lunch break to attend to personal tasks.

- Reward work well done. Sometimes all it takes is some verbal praise for employees to stick to the schedule when they'd rather be doing other things. A show of appreciation can also boost employee morale.
- Set realistic expectations. Being a taskmaster too close to the holidays could stress out employees and leave them less motivated. Try to schedule major projects for after the holiday season.
- Offer flexible schedules. The holiday season is full of more than just shopping. There are school events to attend, parties, travel, and so much more. Enable employees to build their schedules around their personal life once in a while. For example, allow working four, 10-hour days instead of five, eight-hour days.
- Schedule the holiday party during business hours. An office party is an office tradition, but it can cut into personal time by taking place after hours. Instead, close company operations early and have the party during the day. Chances are more workers will choose to attend this way, as well.

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