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## HOW TO START YOUR OWN HOME BUSINESS: BASICS TO CONSIDER

You've been sitting in a cold cubicle dreaming of having your own home business for months, maybe even years. So what's stopping you?

If you're like most people, you may have a lot of qualms about owning your own home business, but the main thing that keeps you from making the leap is that you don't have any idea where to begin!

The first step in how to start your own home business is to know what type of home business you want. This is the most important decision you will have to make when it comes to starting your own home business.

Some questions you want to ask yourself when making this all-important decision are:

- What skills do I have?
- Do I have the education and experience I need?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- Do I want to be out and about or working from a home office?
- What need can I fill in my community?
- What do I love?

The final question is ultimately the most important one of all. To have a successful home business, to be able to meet the challenges and overcome the obstacles to making your business a success, it is imperative that you love what you do. If you don't love what you're doing when it comes to a home business, it is far less likely that you will have the enthusiasm and energy that it takes to make it successful.

After you've decided what home business you want, you will need to do some research. Even if you love the business you've chosen, if there's no need for it, you won't be successful. Research will show you whether you have a viable idea or not. Usually, some slight tweaking of the idea you have for starting your own home business will help you find a need that you can fill by doing what you love.

You will also want to take time to write up at least an informal business plan. Things that should go into your home business plan is what is your ultimate goal, do you have the finances you need for now, how about in six months? You want to look at both short- and long-term goals for your home business.

After all you can't build a house without a blueprint and the knowledge of what you want to house to be like not just today but in three years. So take the time to write out a business plan. You won't regret it, and your home business is certain to benefit greatly from the thought and care you put into it from the day you seriously begin to consider the idea of how to start your own home business.

Once your planning is out of the way, you're ready to start thinking about the realities of having your own home business. Realities such as setting up your home office, marketing your home business, setting your hours, purchasing needed equipment and supplies, and any hiring or subcontracting you need to do.

And remember that how you run your home business is every bit as important as how you start your own home business is. There are many misleading scams and images that portray home business owners as living a life of luxury and ease. For a rare few home business owners this may be true, but for the rest of us, it takes a great deal of effort and energy to make a home business a success.

However, because you've chosen a home business you love and have taken the time to do some upfront planning, the realities of running a successful home business are well worth the effort. Just be sure you add being aware there will be obstacles and challenges that you will have to face as a home business owner, along with the fact that you will actually have to do some work, and you'll be way ahead in the home business game.

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