

How to take your productivity to the next level in your condo

Condo trends. A few tools and ideas can help you get to business more easily (and best of all, your bed is always close by for power naps).

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You may not have room for a photocopier and water cooler but you can still join the growing trend of condo home offices. A second bedroom or dining room table can double as your entrepreneurial headquarters.

The trick is finding clever

A few things to check on

Ready to work at home?

Now, not all businesses are cut out for a condo head office (restaurants and motorcycle repair come to mind). Most buildings

would allow you to work at home in front of the computer and talking on the phone.

It's the steady flow of customers, regular deliveries and noise that are strictly forbidden by most condominium corporations, so check your condo bylaws first.

new ways to make the best use of space.

Designer Devon Vaillancourt tells Metro that a lot of people are doing condo offices now. "You can put a wall bed in a room as well as a desk. It will usually fit and once the wall bed's down,

you just tuck in the chair. We do that quite often."

Vaillancourt is operations manager at Toronto's Condo Box, which specializes in innovative, custom small-space solutions.

"With our desks that we make, you're able to put any sort of drawers, keyboard trays and file drawers. Right now I'm working on a drawing for someone to tuck a printer inside and have all the cables hidden in a freestanding cabinet."

Nowadays, when it comes to technology, a laptop computer takes the place of a

Making it all fit

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Designer Devon Vaillancourt



Phoenix custom desk (bench extra). CONDO BOX



Saftco compact mobile file cart. STAPLES

full-sized desktop and boxy tower. And with a single high-speed Internet connection, you can gain access to all your essential office services like email, web browsing, telephone and fax lines.

In today's condos, wireless is your friend. Wi-Fi means never having to string cables — most computers and peripherals have wireless networks built in.

Bluetooth mice, headsets and keyboards make for an uncluttered desktop. Consider using a cellphone or cordless handset and save big by not having to install custom wiring.

Multi-function printers are all the rage — perfect for your close quarters headquarters. One sleek unit does the combined duties of a colour ink-jet printer, a fax machine, a scanner and a photocopier. Think of all the room you'll save.



Canon Pixma MX420 multi-purpose. CANON CANADA



Asus U2E eco-friendly bamboo series notebook. ASUS

Home office essentials

- **Canon Pixma MX420 multi-purpose.** Prints and scans in colour, photocopies, has internal fax machine and Wi-Fi. \$129.99 from Canon Canada.
- **Saftco compact mobile file cart.** Accommodates 40 legal-sized hanging folders. Steel construction with casters. Can be whisked under a desk when not in use. \$75.96 at Staples.
- **Nominell swivel chair with armrests in bright colours.** Designed by Olle Lundberg, casters lock automatically when the chair is not in use. \$209.00 at IKEA.
- **Phoenix custom desk.** Various sizes and finishes. Leaf folds out to a table; bench nestles inside and out of the way. \$1,400 from Condo Box (Bench extra).
- **Asus U2E eco-friendly bamboo series notebook..** Uniquely blends with your decor. 11.1" LED display, Intel Core 2 duo and up to 4GB. memory. \$479.99 from Asus Computer.



Nominell swivel chair. IKEA