

Ask SCORE

Spring Cleaning for Your Small Business

Every business can benefit from a good spring-cleaning. Here are tips on how to get organized and be more productive by tackling a few key areas within your small business.

Staying organized is one of the most important jobs you have as an owner running a small business. It is also one of the most challenging. Busy small business owners are running full steam ahead and it can be tough to stop long enough to file away receipts and clean out your inbox. Taking time out of your busy schedule to get organized will actually save you a lot of time in the long run. That is why once a year (or more) every small business owner needs to give their business a good 'spring' cleaning.

An unorganized business will stop your productivity in its tracks.

Giving your business a spring-cleaning can mean different things for different businesses. What you choose to clean and organize first should be those areas of the

business most directly tied to productivity and, by extension, profitability.

While every small business is unique, here are four steps every owner can take right now to clean up your business and create a huge boost in productivity.

Back-Up What You Need, Purge What You Don't: Filing your (digital) paperwork is small business spring-cleaning 101. And, just as important, is removing documents and files that you no longer need. File or store important documents in the cloud, on an external hard drive, or in a filing cabinet. If you have a stack of old paper documents containing sensitive information, shred them.

Clean Out Your Inbox: Getting emails into folders and out of your inbox is a spring-cleaning task that will make a big impact on your ability to stay organized. You will feel less overwhelmed and reduce the risk of that all-important email getting lost in the clutter.

(Continued on page 50)

Posters • Mailings • Business Cards
Folders • Booklets • Programs
Large Format • Banners • Vehicle Graphics
Office Wall and Window • Decals
Signs • Small Runs and Bulk Orders



**Imagine it.
Design it.
Print it.**

**berks
digital inc.**

610.929.1200 • BerksDigital.com

Stylish Images photography

Are you trusting Your Business' image to poor cellphone snapshots?

Business and Commercial Portraiture * Families
Drone Aerials * Location, In Office or Studio Sessions

Photos for: Business Cards, LinkedIn and Websites

Visit us: www.stylishimages.com

**Business Discounts available
for multiple sessions**

An **\$125.00** Studio session includes:
20-40 exposures taken (2-4 poses),
2 - backgrounds

Upload to our website for your review
within hours of your session.

2- Retouched High resolution digital file
emailed to you within 24 hours.
additional files available for a small fee

**Can you really afford to look bad
with a price this good?**

Don't settle for this



Drone Aerial Real Estate



Certified FAA Drone Pilot

Nationwide Insurance Dollfus Agency



Location Portraits

When you can have these:
Business Headshots



Real Estate Interiors



610-792-9956



PUC No. A-8925351

NEW OWNER, SAME GREAT SERVICE!

We know moving is a busy & stressful time.

Call for a FREE Estimate!

At Lausch's we make it our business to help you in any way possible. We are a FAMILY-owned, full-service moving company.

From moving to helpful and friendly advice, we provide what you need to make your move a successful one.

610-750-5534

Lauschsmovingco.com



Ask SCORE

(Continued from page 49)

Declutter Your Workstation: Clutter creates stress – something no business owner needs. The items on your desk should be ones you use each day, like pens, notebooks, a laptop or tablet, and any specialty tools your work requires. Everything else should have a home in a desk drawer, on a shelf or somewhere else close-by. An easy and inexpensive way to keep your workstation clean is with drawer organizers, shelves, and a filing cabinet.

Find Tools That Help You Stay Organized After You Clean: Once you have finished your small business spring-cleaning, look for simple ways to stay organized. If you are most productive when you create a list of to-do's, invest in a daily planner and note pads. If you prefer using apps and other tech tools to do business, there are several apps out there designed specifically for staying organized. Look for apps that allow you to manage lists, take notes, connect to your calendar or planner, and set reminders. A few examples of organization apps include trello.com, todoist.com and evernote.com.

Make spring-cleaning easier by dusting off your business throughout the year.

The best spring cleaning plan is continued maintenance throughout the year. If you can create a process for maintaining those tasks tied directly to your productivity – like filing documents once a month or taking 20 minutes every Friday to reset your workstation – you'll increase

the health of your business, get more done in less time and, ultimately, be more profitable.

When creating a plan to stay organized, it is always helpful to take guidance from an outsider looking in, like a SCORE mentor. A SCORE mentor will not only help you get organized, but they'll work with you to uncover and set up the tools that will best help you stay organized and be more productive. Contact a SCORE mentor today to get started.

Since 1964, SCORE "Mentors to America's Small Business" has helped more than 10 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners through mentoring and business workshops. More than 11,000 volunteer business mentors in over 320 chapters serve their communities through entrepreneur education dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses. For more information about starting or operating a small business, contact SCORE TriCounty, <https://tricity.score.org/content/find-mentor-183>.

Today at SCORE, we are on the frontline fighting to keep Main Street America in business. If you believe that you can help a small business with your experience, advice and mentoring please think about joining us. Email us at scorevolunteer.org, call us at 610.327.2673, or to learn more. To submit an application to be a SCORE TriCounty volunteer, visit our website at <https://tricity.score.org/become-volunteer-2>.

SCORE is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.



610.948.3329



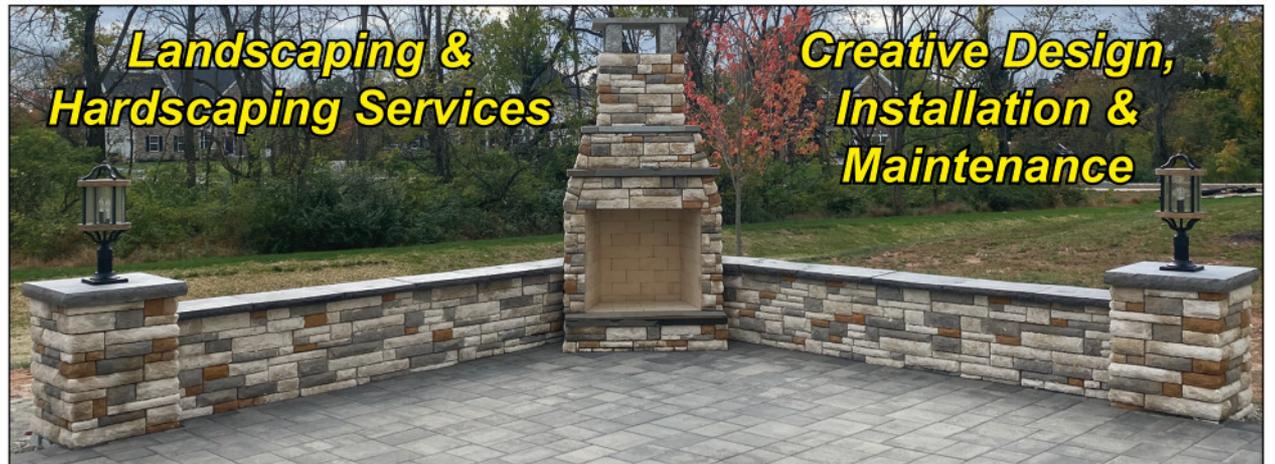
BAUERLANDSCAPING.COM

155 Hill Church Rd. Spring City, PA 19475

PA Contractor #068471



Call us today for a FREE estimate!



Landscaping & Hardscaping Services

Creative Design, Installation & Maintenance

We're BETTER because we're DIFFERENT!

Seasonal Services

- Spring & Fall Cleanup
- Lawn Mowing & Maintenance
- Shrub & Tree Trimming
- Seed and Sod Installation
- Complete & Balanced Fertilization
- Edging and Mulching
- Snow Removal



Other Services

- Fire Pits
- Outdoor Kitchens & Fire Places
- Patios / Walks / Walls
- Paver Restoration
- Creative Masonry
- Natural Stone Walls
- Stone Veneer
- Flagstone
- Boulders
- Outdoor Lighting
- Grading & Drainage
- Excavation

