

Top 10 Cubicle Pet Peeves

Here is a list of the top cubicle complaints we've been asked to address in business etiquette seminars. We've left one blank for you to fill in your own.

1. Knock knock. Who's there? Barge. Barge who? Barge Rightin.

Just because there isn't a door on your cubicle doesn't mean people shouldn't "knock". To signal your presence before entering you can knock on the side of the partition or ask "Do you have a minute?"

2. What's yours is mine

What is it about your desk that makes it look like the supply cupboard? Ask permission before you borrow or take anyone else's supplies.

3. Shock radio

Yee haw, you love country music! Doesn't everybody? That's why there's chocolate and vanilla and headphones. Check with your neighbors regarding the sound level of your radio, iPod or computer.

4. We see you, we're just ignoring you

If you're not deaf or invisible why do people carry on conversations with each other over your head and work space? If you need to talk directly to someone, you should go to their desk.

5. Loud talkers

Why do some people use their "outside" voice, when they're inside? Voice volume while on or off the phone should be kept low. This is why phone headsets make such a good gift in an open office.

6. Whoa, wicked perfume

Are people commenting on your perfume or cologne? Guess what? That's a clue that it's too strong. Many people have allergies or sensitivities so fragrances should be subtle or avoided.

7. Your mom doesn't work here

Your mom/spouse/partner usually cleans up after you? They probably don't work here, so in the lunch/coffee room and other shared areas, tidy up after yourself.

8. The coffee fairy

Why do some people seem to think that the coffee pot or the photocopier gets refilled by magic? (Or does their mom work here?) If you take the last cup of coffee, make another pot.

9. Your lunch sounds/smells good

You don't have to advertise the fact that you are eating at your desk. If you're eating or snacking in your work area, do it discreetly. No loud slurping, chomping, chewing, gum popping, odorous foods or barbecuing in your cubicle.

10. Your pet peeve

Post or share this article

It's a fact that most of us spend more time with our work colleagues than we do with our families. Families take some effort and so do workplace relationships. Share this article as a starting point for ongoing discussions to ensure your workplace works for everyone.

No need for cubicle rage

It's hard to imagine that you could be the one doing something that bugs your colleagues. Moi? A nice way to bring up your complaint is to first ask your neighbors if you're doing anything that bugs them. You might be surprised at their response and it should segue nicely into you bringing up your peeves.

We don't do it on purpose

Remember to cut each other some slack, you aren't trying to annoy each other on purpose. Most of us don't think a lot about cubicle etiquette or how what we do affects others. Start building communication, self awareness and more respectful workplaces.