

So, You're Retiring. How Will You Use Your New Free Time?

Once you've determined your retirement persona, it's time to take a look at this checklist and see what questions you need to ask yourself as you prepare for retirement.

CONTINUER



Those who continue what they did before retirement, but in a modified way.

SPECTATOR



Those who stay involved in the same field, but in more of a consumer role.

ADVENTURER



Those who want to try something new during retirement.

SEARCHER



Those who are still deciding what they want to do during retirement.

EASY GLIDER



Those who want to relax and let each day unfold without too much planning.

Have You...

- Talked to the new or future owners about what your role in the business will be?
- Thought about how many hours you'd like to work?
- Considered how you can support the efforts of the new owners while allowing them to take charge?
- Planned what you would like to do with your freed-up time?
- Suggested to the new owners ways you can stay involved but not in control, such as by attending buying markets or increasing your trade association participation?

Have You...

- Made plans for how you can stay active in the industry you've retired from, without working?
- Considered the emotions you might feel when you move from leading your business to watching it?
- Come up with some ways you can use your experience and expertise in your private life?

Have You...

- Done advance research on new activities or travels—and maybe even taken a class—so you can jump into your new life as soon as you retire?
- Begun taking steps to phase yourself out of the business completely?
- Planned a retirement schedule so you stay active mentally and physically?
- Talked over your hopes and plans with family and friends, so you have others ready to go with you?
- Made sure you have the money set aside to fund your escapades?

Have You...

- Thought about what you like to do, so you can explore those interests as you figure out what to do in retirement?
- Considered trying new hobbies or signing up for a class?
- Prepared your family for the research and experimenting you'll do in your free time?
- Determined which hobbies or habits you would like to carry over into or expand upon in your new life?
- Looked into new activities, such as an art class or interesting courses you could take at a local college?

Have You...

- Thought about what going with the flow might look like, be it living as an on-call babysitter for a grandchild or relaxing in your garden?
- Looked into a local community center or gym where you might be able to find like-minded friends who can be as spontaneous or as quietly easy going as you wish?