



**NINE
TO
THRIVE**

WHAT EMPLOYEES WANT FROM OFFICE LIFE
IN A POST-COVID WORLD



In 2020, office-based work – along with nearly every other aspect of our lives – changed irrevocably. Working from home became the norm, but for many of the people we spoke to for this toolkit, some aspects of office life are sorely missed. In fact, 83% of people are looking forward to being back in the office for at least some of their working week.

With this brand-new piece of research, we delve into what office workers truly want as we return to some normality in 2021. We offer you key insights into what your employees may be thinking, but not necessarily saying out loud.

HOW TO HAVE A SMOOTH RETURN TO OFFICE LIFE

THE THREE INGREDIENTS TO A HAPPY OFFICE

CLEAN
AND HYGIENIC
ENVIRONMENT



COMFORTING
FURNISHINGS
AND SURROUNDINGS

CARE
FOR YOUR TEAM
AND THE PLANET



OFFICE TIME

83%

of people are looking forward
to being back in the office



or more of their working week

Before COVID-19 forced many of us to work from home, office life may have sometimes felt like a drag. But, enforced working from home has given many people time to reflect, with **56% naming socialising with colleagues as the thing they missed most.**



LOOKING FORWARD

Sometimes it's the simple things we miss the most; one in five workers have missed having access to high-quality amenities such as tea, coffee and filtered water. While for others it's larger factors like sustainability, with one in 10 respondents missing working in a sustainably conscious environment.

WHAT WE'RE KEEN TO GET BACK TO



Working from home does have its benefits, and as offices reopen, forward thinking employers will look to bring some of those comforts into the office environment to offer an attractive alternative to the home office.

A HOME FROM HOME

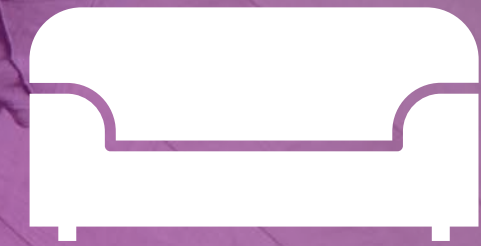
Alongside a more flexible approach to working hours where possible, there are some simple, but key changes employers can make to ease the transition.



THE LITTLE THINGS EMPLOYEES WANT



SPACED OUT DESKS
46%



SOFAS
38%



BETTER AMENITIES AND KITCHENS
33%



PLANTS
32%

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Introducing Paul Dutnall, Head of Operations & Coworking at Work.Life, the flexible workspace provider for businesses looking for happy and proactive working environments.

Involvement

Involve your team

It's important that all employees are on the same page and support the plans for returning to the office. Why not run a survey and listen to what your employees have to say about when, where and how the workplace should reopen?

Transparency

Be transparent

When you've made your plans for returning to the office, communicate them with the team transparently, especially if you're exploring team rotation, or changes to the office layout.

A great way to do this is by creating a document with guidelines that employees can refer back to.

Flexibility

Address concerns and be flexible

If there's one thing we've learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's that businesses need to be flexible. The same goes for returning to the office.

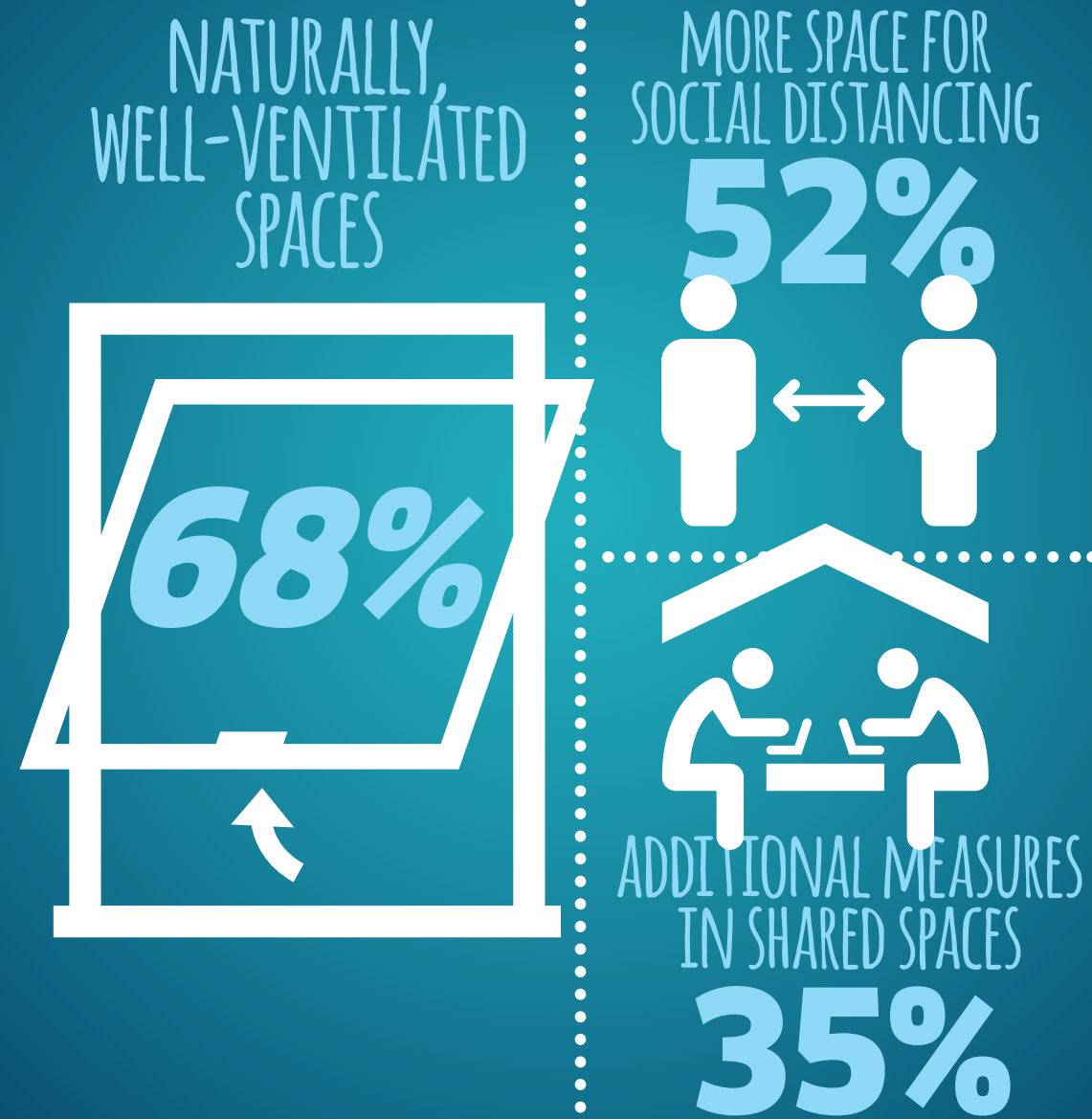
When you do reopen, assess what works well and what doesn't. Ensure you're gathering regular feedback from employees and making changes to your strategy as necessary.



KEEPING IT CLEAN

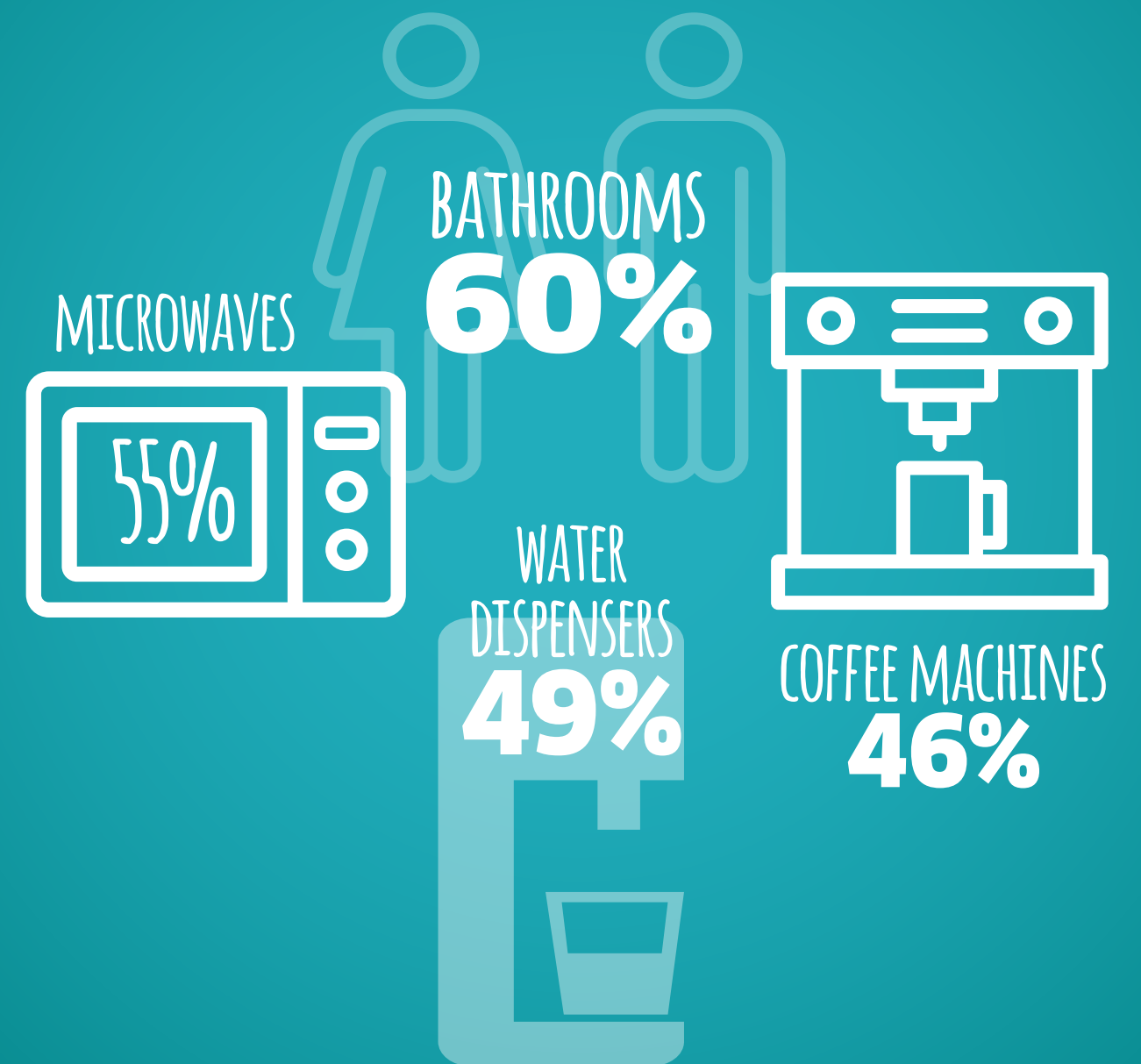
COVID-19 has made even the most conscientious of us even more aware of cleanliness and sanitation. This was a really important issue for our respondents, with **81% saying they were more concerned about office hygiene** now than before the pandemic. Additionally, over a third (35%) said shared facilities with built in hygiene measures were of utmost importance to them on returning to the office.

CLEANING CHECK LIST



HYGIENE HOTSPOTS

Top areas where hygienic equipment is felt to be of paramount importance:



PRETTY GREEN

Now, more than ever, sustainability is top of mind.

The pandemic has made many of us reassess our priorities; with less opportunity to travel and more time at home to focus on what matters, **82% of respondents said sustainability was more important to them now** than ever. Nearly a quarter (24%) also want to see more sustainability initiatives to mitigate the impact of working in the office vs. working from home.

OFFICE SUSTAINABILITY WINS

1 INCREASE RECYCLING OPTIONS **54%**

2 WORK TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE **54%**

3 BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC & INTRODUCE REUSABLE BOTTLES & CUPS **49%**

4 INVEST IN ENERGY SAVING OFFICE EQUIPMENT **43%**

5 FORM PARTNERSHIPS WITH GREEN SUPPLIERS **33%**

Top Tip:
Office water dispensers, dispensing chilled, filtered water, reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles and instead encourage the use of reusable bottles.

YOUR RETURN TO OFFICE CHECKLIST



Introduce safe socialising opportunities



Make the office a home from home



Create a sustainable environment



Ensure the office is clean and hygienic



Introduce high-quality amenities



BRITA VIVREAU IS ONE OF THE LEADING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF WATER FILTRATION, TRANSFORMING WATER IN THE WORKPLACE

BRITA VIVREAU offers sustainable, mains-fed water dispensers for modern offices.

This year we're launching a suite of new product innovations which incorporate the latest energy-saving and hygiene technology to help workplaces provide high-quality, sustainable and safe filtered water for employees.

With many employees concerned about hygiene and sustainability on return to the workplace, these elegant products – designed to suit different sized workplaces – can provide reassurance and refreshment in the office. Find out [more](#) here.



LIFE IS BETTER
FILTERED