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1. Why the Hourly Model Works

The hourly-rate model creates transparency, flexibility, and trust. It allows small businesses to:

- Bill for real work, not fluff
- Attract clients who respect expertise
- Maintain a healthy work-life balance

Tip: Your rate should reflect your experience, overhead, and value-not just your time.

2. Hourly Rate Calculator

Formula: $(\text{Salary} + \text{Overhead}) \div \text{Billable Hours} = \text{Base Hourly Rate}$

Add 15-30% buffer for profit and taxes.

3. Client Communication Templates

Intro Email: Thanks for considering me. I work on an hourly-rate basis of \$XX/hr. No surprise fees or locked-in contracts.

Estimate Template: This project will take X-Y hours. I'll update you regularly and never exceed our time cap without approval.

4. Time Tracking Tools Guide

Top tools:

- Toggl Track
- Clockify
- Harvest
- Everhour

5. Best Practices for Setting & Raising Rates

- Start with a profitable base rate
- Review quarterly
- Communicate increases with notice
- Offer loyalty perks wisely

6. "Red Flag" Client Checklist

Avoid clients who:

- Resist billing transparency
- Ask for "quick favors"
- Micromanage
- Miss payments

7. Build a Reputation That Justifies Your Rate

- Showcase work
- Collect testimonials
- Share insights
- Stick to boundaries

Let's Connect



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