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INDIVIDUALS. IDEAS. INFORMATION on VACATIONS

the great get-away

TAKE A VACATION. YOUR BUSINESS WILL THANK YOU BY JEANINE GAJEWSKI

If the economy has taken a toll on you and your business this year, the last thing you need to worry about is finding time to take a vacation. Or is it? A vacation can do more than just help you unwind and improve your work-life balance – both of which are worthy goals for any CEO. Some business leaders have also found that taking time off gives them a chance to think strategically and gives their employees an opportunity to take on extra responsibilities. These CEOs share why taking a vacation is valuable and how they prepare themselves and their businesses for their time away from each other.



ALAN RICHARDSON, president, Potomac Valley Brick and Supply Company

Why It's Important: I feel you have to. My family is the reason I work. I value the time I am able to spend with my family, but I'm also realistic in that it takes a lot to manage a business.

How I Prepare: I'm fortunate in that I do have in my management team four extremely competent managers who can make sure the business is running. I have the utmost confidence that they can handle anything that comes up. If you are going to be a CEO, you'd better get someone you can trust to run the company for a week because you never know, whether it is a vacation or you get ill, you need to have someone to run the company.

My Advice: In order for you to be at your best all the time, you need to take some time off, a time when you are not consumed with your business. It doesn't mean you won't be thinking about it on some levels. If you want your company to run at the top level, every CEO needs to be able to get away for at least a week, and a week is not long. I am still working toward taking two weeks.