

Smell the Roses

Is it me or does it seem like everyone has their heads buried in their phones these days? Everywhere you look, people are consumed with gazing into these small electronic informational devices. Just go to a restaurant and take notice of how often people are looking at their phones and not talking with the person across the table. Smartphones have become an extension of our body. Some people cannot function without having their phones by their side every minute of the day.



Smartphones, to a certain degree, have become an essential necessity to humanity. In fact, a whopping 5 billion people worldwide now own a smartphone.

It used to be that phones were used only for the purpose of calling and or texting. Now, people can manage almost every aspect of their life through smartphones. The boundless number of apps and benefits of smartphones is staggering. However, do the benefits outweigh the disadvantages?

The most abundant benefit centers around communication. The ability to communicate vs. years past has improved tenfold. Communication through voice, text, video, and facetime is revolutionary. Mobile phones enable instant communication with friends, family, and workmates. The ability to share news, or to give status updates is reassuring for many people. Having the comfort of knowing where your children are is encouraging to many parents. When I grew up, you would leave the house, and your parents didn't see or talk with you until you returned home. Now, parents have apps to track or get in touch with their kids instantaneously. Also, families have become tighter through enhanced communication. To be able to communicate to aging parents through facetime or social media has improved long distance family relationships.

As vital as communication is, the smartphone has attributed to a plethora of different benefits for millions of people throughout the world. The ability to multitask, set appointments, take pictures, pay bills, order food, read news, watch entertainment, listen to music, get directions, social media interaction, check weather, get health updates, track your fitness.... The list goes on and on. It is amazing when you really think about it. What can't you do with your phone? With all these wonderful attributes, what are the downsides?

Safety for one. A smartphone can effortlessly distract you and can be the main cause for most accidents. Whether that's driving, or even walking. Walking? Yes, even walking. People are walking into buses for goodness' sake. I don't mean to make light of any serious injury, but we need to pick our heads up and **smell the roses**. Live in the moment. Not every moment needs to have a picture or video taken.... Just enjoy the moment for what it is, in real time.

Also, put the phone down and talk to each other...eye to eye. Mobile phones can make you closer to a person far from you, but it also can take you away from the ones sitting next to you. Your cell phone has already replaced your camera, your calendar, and your alarm clock. Don't let it replace your family.

I'll close by sharing a quote. "I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots." —Albert Einstein. This just in...Albert was kind of smart guy.

Respectfully, Clark Willis - Regional Sales Manager, Kimal Lumber