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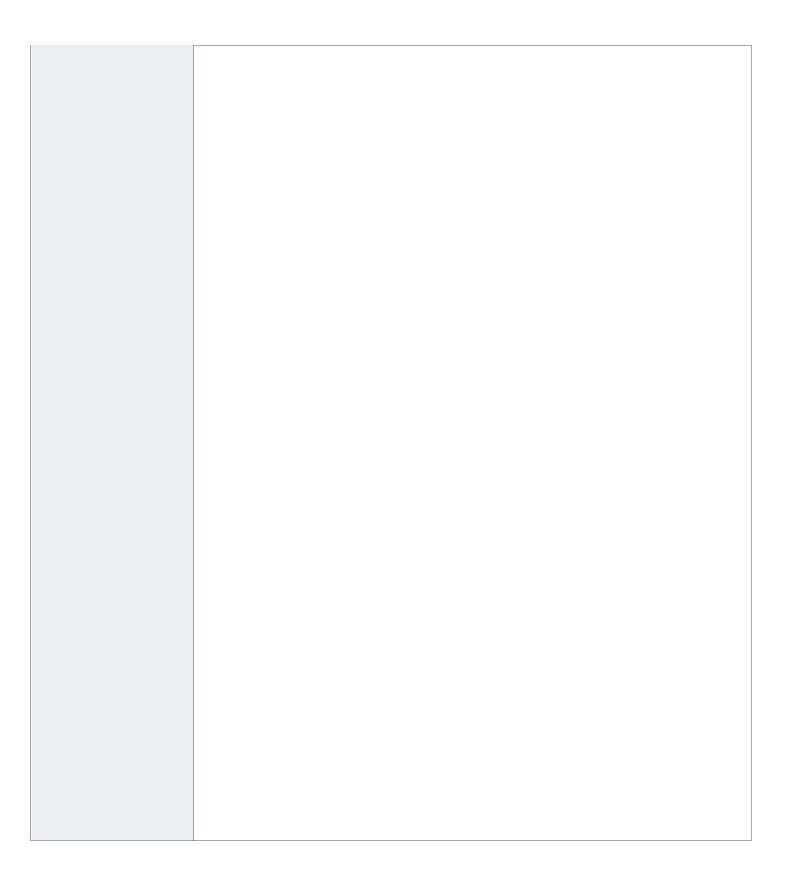
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Fonts

When choosing the fonts that you'll be using for headlines and body text, a good rule is to never use more than 2-3 fonts in a newsletter. More cause confusion and make your efforts look less professional. Be creative with the ones you do choose, though. Use different sizes and colors, and use bold and italics to add variety without confusing the look of the newsletter. You can add these custom styles to your template's style palette so that they're instantly available.

Finally, delete any features that you won't be using. Once you're done with these general changes, save the result as a Word template.

Add articles and graphics

One distinct difference between a printed newsletter and an e-mail version is the amount of text to include. Unless you know that all your readers will be interested in a longer version, you should keep the amount of information to about 1,000 words or less. Anything more becomes tiresome to read online, and you may lose their interest before they read the items you really want them to see.

What to include

Some items to think about including might be introductions to new employees, recent awards presented to your company, specials and discounts on products or services, announcements of new products, and information on new ways to take advantage of your products or services. Don't include items that might be of interest to only a few customers; you want to capture and hold the interest of as many readers as possible.

Add graphics



Add graphics or pictures with captions to help break up the text and create some visual interest. But make sure that whatever you add relates to the adjacent text. A picture of the company dog might be cute, but if the story surrounding it is about a new product, the picture will only serve to confuse your readers.

Contact information

Be sure to include contact information in more than one place. Not only should it be part of your master template, you should include "For more information..." contacts in every article where it's appropriate.

Web links

Include links to the company Web site wherever you can. Be sure to update the site to include the information you are referring them to. It's easy to include hyperlinks in your newsletter that will take customers right to your Web site or get them started with an e-mail to your sales staff.

Proofread

When you've completed your newsletter, it's time for one of the most important steps of all—proofreading. Take several passes through the material, looking for different things each time.