



## RESPONSIVE DESIGN: THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

### USING HOVER ACTIONS

Many sites use drop-down menus that rely on the user hovering over menu items to reveal submenus. In touch interfaces (e.g. phones and tablets) hover does not work well and you will often need to change hover actions to use a click instead.

### NAVIGATION BARS

The ever-popular navigation bars at the tops of many websites are often impediments to making a site responsive. If your navigation doesn't wrap elegantly, you will often need to use a completely different layout for your navigation on small devices.

### USING TABLES FOR LAYOUT

Using tables to lay out a website has been discouraged for years, but can still be found on older sites. If your site uses tables for layout, you will need to completely change the html of your site to make it work responsively. Responsive sites generally use a framework that lays the site out in a 12 or 16 column grid system. Bootstrap uses a 12 column system: <http://twitter.github.com/bootstrap/scaffolding.html#gridSystem>

One case of using tables for layout which is still quite common today is in forms. Tables are often used to present the field labels on the left and fields on the right. Fortunately, frameworks such as Bootstrap also have built-in CSS for handling forms such as this: <http://twitter.github.com/bootstrap/base-css.html#forms>

### FIXED-WIDTH BACKGROUND IMAGES

If you use fixed-width background images in your design, these will not adjust automatically in a responsive site and will need to be implemented differently or redesigned.

### WIDE CONTENT

Some content is just designed to take up a lot of space, such as a feature carousel on a home page with both text and graphics. You will need to think carefully about how devices of all sizes will see these. In some cases you will need to rearrange content for smaller screens, and in others you will want to simply hide content that won't fit.

Another example of content that can be too wide for small screens could be large tables of data. In some rare cases there may be no elegant way to shrink content for smaller screens and users will need a horizontal scrollbar to see all of the content.

## TESTING YOUR SITE

There are a number of tools for testing your site to see that it looks good at various screen sizes. Firefox has a built-in Responsive Design View, and there are a number of online tools such as Screenfly that will display your site at various sizes for testing purposes.

Firefox Responsive Design View: [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Responsive\\_Design\\_View](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Responsive_Design_View)

Screenfly: <http://quirktools.com/screenfly/>