April Fool’s Pranks

Time for a bit of harmless fun
Have some fun and celebrate creativity. The trick is to plan a prank that is fun and promotes laughter without causing damage or sacrificing productivity. Before you get going, consider the impact of your actions. As yourself these five critical questions:

1. Would I feel lousy if it happened to me?
2. Would my boss disapprove?
3. Does it go against office policy?
4. Is it offensive?
5. Will my colleague lose considerable time at work by correcting it?

If you answered yes to any of these questions . . . think of something else to do

Favorite pranks
Here are some favorite “April Fooleries” that I’ve collected:

TECH TOUCH
• Switch two keys on a co-worker’s keyboard (or do the same for all your co-workers).
• Place a piece of tape or a Post-It note that reads “April Fools!” on the bottom of every employee’s mouse.
• When your co-worker leaves his/her workstation, google something embarrassing and leave the results open on their computer. Obviously, keep it clean as you are at work, but make it funny, like best smelly cheeses in the world, odd medical conditions, or something you know will make them laugh.
• Make a copy of a document your colleague has been working on (be sure to save the original safely) and then change the font to zapf dingbats so they think the computer went haywire and they lost everything.
• Change a colleague’s screen saver or screen color scheme.

OFFICE REDESIGNS
• Fill boss’s office with packing peanuts (better yet, make it look that way by taping cardboard sheets of peanuts to his/her office window—and close the door).
• Swap drawers of two co-workers (if there’s nothing personal in them).
• Plastic wrap someone’s telephone handle to the phone; or plastic wrap all their pens together.
• Redecorate an office with posters of the victim’s rival college or most-hated sports team.

COMMON AREAS
• Post a sign in the bathroom: “The Company ran out of toilet tissue; please use your own resources.”
• Lunchroom refrigerator: at 10:00 hide all the lunches; or put a tall row of soda cans in front of all the lunches making it look like the fridge is full of soda and the lunches are gone.
• Swap the caps on the whiteboard markers.
• Put Mr. Bill in a compromising position, with a note that says, “Ohhh Nooo!”
• Copier: Place a paper clip over or on a piece of blank paper and make several copies. Now, place them back on the top of the paper tray. Hang around to see your colleague’s confusion as they desperately try and find the strange paper clip that’s showing up on all their copies.

EXECUTIVE TREATMENT
• Have all the women in the office confidentially tell the President/CEO they are pregnant (or sick).
• Leave a message on your boss or co-worker’s desk asking them to call a “Mr Lyon.” Give them the number of the local zoo and just wait to see their face when they make the call.

ANTICIPATION
• The greatest trick is to do nothing but convince everyone you’ve pulled a series of ‘hilarious’ pranks. Spend all day grinning and giggling to yourself, while dropping the odd comment like: ‘Are you sure you want to do that?’ or ‘I wouldn’t go in there if I was you’. Your colleagues will go crazy with paranoia and be unable to concentrate on their work all day.