# Ergonomic Tips for Your Home Office



Ergonomics can assist you in improving your posture, health, and productivity through proper workstation design. If you find yourself setting up a home office, there are some ergonomic tips you should keep in mind.

#### Chair

- > Choose a comfortable chair with a padded cushion and back support.
- > Your feet should be flat on the floor, thighs parallel to the floor, and your back against the backrest.
- > If you need to raise your chair height or need more cushion, place a pillow on the seat.
- > If you need lumbar/back support, use a pillow or rolled up towel.
- > Avoid sitting on a couch, recliner, or bar stool.

# Work Surface

- > Use a table or a desk for a work surface. Avoid coffee tables and working on your lap.
- > When sitting, the work surface should be at or slightly below your elbow height.
- > If the desk is too high, raise your chair or add a cushion to the chair.

# Keyboard & Mouse

- > Use an external keyboard & mouse directly in front of you near the front edge of the work surface.
- > Keep your arms and shoulders relaxed and close to your body.
- > Keep your forearms, wrists, and hands straight.

#### **Monitor Placement**

- > Center the monitor in front of you, in line with the keyboard, at approximately an arm's length.
- > Adjust your monitor/laptop (stack of books) so the top of the display is at or slightly below your eye height.
- > Bifocal or progressive lens wearers may need to lower their monitors to avoid tilting the head back.

### Work Environment

- > Setup a designated workspace in an area with minimal distractions.
- > Create a routine that includes a start and stop time, breaks, and getting dressed for work.
  - You can set timers on your cell phone.
- > You should change your working position frequently throughout the day in the following ways:
  - Stand up and walk around for a few minutes every hour.
  - Stand and move for breaks and phone calls when not using the computer.
  - Stretch your fingers, hands, arms, legs, and torso.
  - Stay hydrated.



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