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Tips for Homeworkers

- Introduction to Osmond Ergonomics & the trainer
- The risks when working from home
- How should we have our chairs set up?
- Organising our equipment
- Wellbeing & mental health
- Free Resources

By the end of the workshop delegates will -

- Understand the potential risks of adopting poor postures
- Know how to set up your chair correctly
- Know what a good workstation set up looks like
- Get an understanding of other 'Hints & Tips' to help manage wellbeing and mental health

Trainer Profile

- Over 19 years' experience
- Started assessing in 2005
- Many workstation assessments completed
 - DSE Assessments
 - Escalated Workplace Assessments
 - Disabled Students Higher Education
- Training Manager since 2013
 - Internal Training
 - External Training



Who are we?

- Wimborne, Dorset National Coverage
- All staff trained -
 - Advance Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Assessors
 - 3 day Ergonomics in Practice course
- Regular internal training days -
 - Dyslexia awareness
 - Mental Health awareness
 - Mindfulness







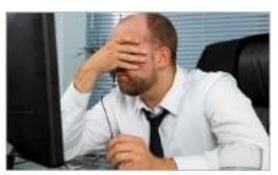


Tips for Homeworkers

Potential risks when working from home

- Physical:
 - Musculoskeletal disorders
 - Eye fatigue
 - Stress
- Psychological:
 - Loneliness and isolation
 - Anxiety and stress
 - Depression
- Working Environment:
 - Fire and electrical equipment
 - Personal safety





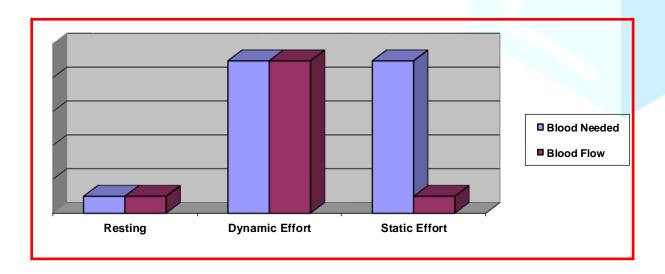
Why look after our posture?

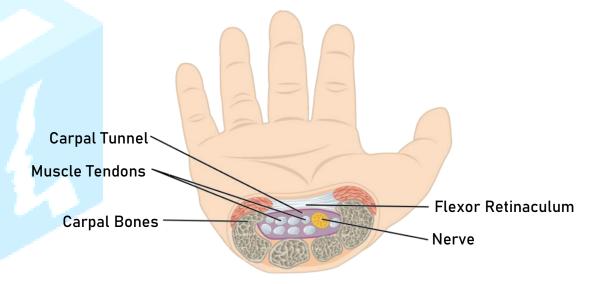
- Not designed to maintain static postures for prolonged periods
- Problems can build up over time
- Cost to us and business



Ligaments, Tendons, Nerves & Muscles

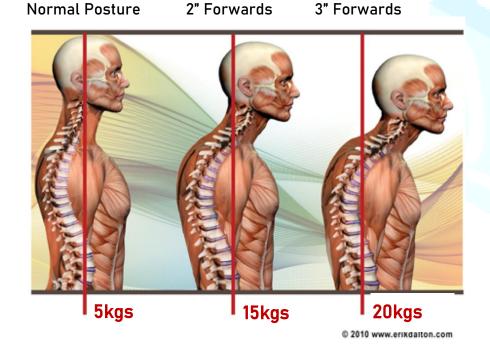
- Ligaments Bone to bone connective tissue.
- Tendons Bone to muscle connective tissue.
- Nerves Relay messages too and from the brain.
- Muscles Designed to be relaxed or moving.

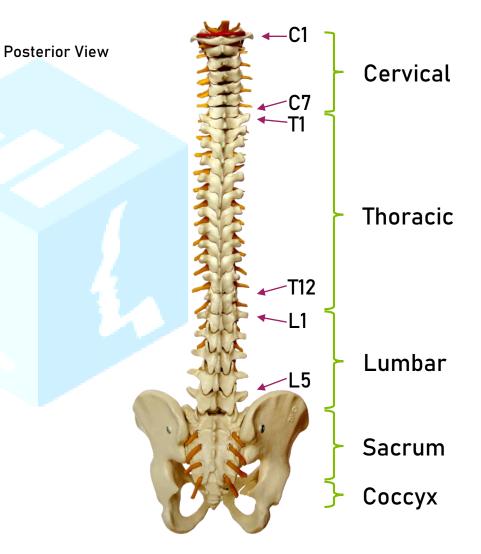




By OpenStax College - Anatomy & Dysiology, Connexions Web site. http://cnx.org/content/coll1496/1.6/

The Spine & Neck





Before starting...

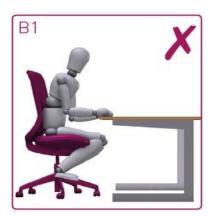
- Deciding where to work -
 - Try to avoid soft seating, sofas and beds
 - Use a table and chair
 - Away from too many distractions
- Sit and position equipment at right angles to a window where possible.
- Use a task lamp for dimly lit workspaces

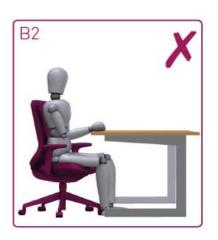




- Sitting with the chair too low and too far from the desk encourages a slouched posture with no support from the chair back.
- It is likely to result in arms stretched forwards (or sideways) and/or shoulder lifting
- The head is tilted forward.

- Feet are hooked around the chair base restricting blood circulation in the legs.
- Shoulders may be hunched.
- This all causes undue muscle tension.





Sitting posture

- Move the chair close to the desk and sit back on the seat.
- Adjust the chair back so that the upper body is relaxed and supported.
- Raise the chair seat so that, with the upper arms vertical, the elbows are level with or just above the desk.
- If your chair is not adjustable, use cushions to raise yourself up and/or support your back.
- Use a foot rest or box if the feet do not touch the ground.









- Arrange your desk layout to make best use of available space.
- Position your keyboard & mouse in front of you
- Use your mouse (or trackball) close to the keyboard.
- Place the screen in front of you so that you face it without twisting your body.
- Documents should be placed between the monitor and keyboard to avoid twisting

- If the screen is set too low, this encourages the user to tilt the head downwards.
- As a result, the whole body tends to lean forward, moving away from the support of the chair back and encouraging slouching.





HEALTHY WORKPLACE

Screen positioning

- *Raise the screen so that the visible screen top is just below eye level.
- Screen should be positioned about an arms length away.
- If you are using a laptop, ideally you should be using a laptop stand, separate keyboard and mouse.
- * Use a couple of books or a box to get your screen to a better height





Wellbeing & mental health

- Try to keep to 'normal' routines.
- Start and end the day at fixed times switch your devices off at the end of the day.
- Create a to-do list for the day or following day.
- Take regular breaks, keep a window open, go for a walk.
- Stand when making telephone/video calls and move around whenever possible. Movement is key to reducing fatigue and maintaining productivity.
- Keep in regular contact with colleagues to reduce the feelings of isolation. Schedule virtual coffee breaks.
- If you feel isolated or anxious, speak to your manager or contact your employer's EAP.



Questions



Review of

- Understand the potential risks of adopting poor postures Know how to set up your chair correctly
 - Know what a good workstation set up looks like
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HEALTHY PEOPLE HEALTHY THINKING HEALTHY WORKPLACE HEALTHY PLANET

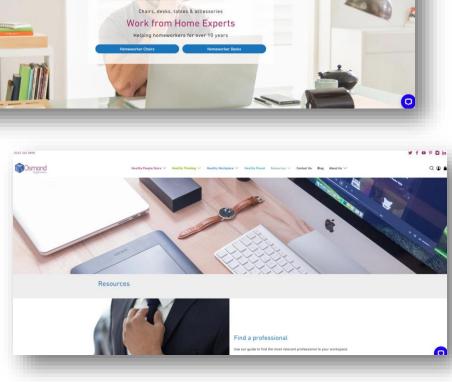
Free Resources











Knowledge > Innovation > Productivity

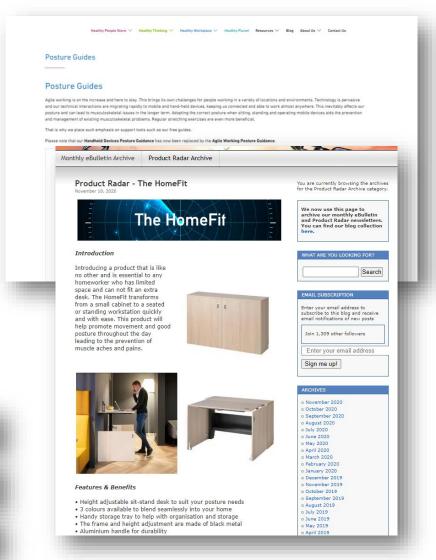
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Free resources

Our free to download posture guidance, stretching and agile working information can be found <u>here.</u>

HEALTHY THINKING

- We now have one page for eBulletin & Product Radar subscription with links to each archive. If you don't already receive them, you can subscribe <u>here</u>.
- Social Media for useful information and articles on ergonomics, health, safety and wellbeing.



Free Resources

- Avoid becoming chair-shaped! Fitback Physiotherapy offers their <u>Super 7 exercises in 7 minutes</u> to strengthen your back
- Cardinus have a useful app for both Apple and Android phones. Search HealthyWorking in the Apple App Store or Google Play.
- Champion Health Workplace Health & Online Mental Health Training.
 - www.championhealth.co.uk







Contact

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Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 08:30 - 17:00

HEALTHY PLANET



The UK's most knowledgeable provider of innovative products and services to improve workplace wellbeing and productivity