



ERGONOMIC STRATEGIES NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

Monitors

- Position your computer monitor in front of you with an eye gaze 6-9° below the horizontal. This will help to decrease visual discomfort which will decrease worker fatigue and increase productivity.
- Position the notebook computer monitor perpendicular to the window, if there is one. This will help to avoid glare on the screen and as a result reduce visual discomfort.

Keyboards

- Use a separate keyboard, and make sure the keys do not stick or need excessive force to operate.
- Don't use a wrist rest!
 - Research has shown that using a wrist rest doubles the pressure inside the carpal tunnel
 - This is because the floor of the carpal tunnel is a more flexible ligament that transmits external pressures directly into the carpal tunnel.
- Place your arms and elbows close to your body when typing and maintain your wrists in a neutral position.
- Position the keyboard an arms length away because longer distances between the keyboard and the edge of the desk keep the wrist in a more neutral position and reduce chronic injury.
- If possible, use a downward tilting keyboard tray (with no more than a 15° tilt) as this significantly reduces wrist extension and improves both low back pain and shoulder pain.

Mouse

- Use an external mouse instead of the touchpad.
- Make sure the mouse is at the same level as the notebook computer keyboard (elbow height) and kept close to the keyboard.

QUESTIONS? Contact Rachel Neuman: raneuman@bu.edu or Karen Jacobs: kjacobs@bu.edu

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