

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety + Centre canadien d'hygiène et de sécurité au travail

### Working in a Sitting Position

# Working in a Sitting Position - What to Avoid while Sitting

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#### Why is body position or posture important while sitting?

Poor arrangement of the workstation encourages an awkward body position. A poor body position or posture can hinder blood circulation, affect the nervous system, and contribute to injuries and illnesses

#### What to avoid doing while sitting?

- Tilting the head forward to prevent neck injury
- Sitting without lumbar support to prevent back pain
- Working with arms raised to prevent neck and shoulder pain
- Bending wrists to prevent wrist pain and muscle cramps
- Working with unsupported forearms to prevent shoulder and back pain
- Lifting or dropping the shoulders
- Keeping elbows far from the body
- Frequently reaching for things (especially when bending or twisting of the back is necessary)



- Cramming thighs under a worktable will affect blood circulation.
- Sitting on a chair that has poor support for your body or stability
- Rounding the back (slouching)
- Excessively arching the lower back
- Leaning forward without supporting bodyweight
- Reclining the chair's backrest at an angle greater than 30°
- Dangling feet

#### How does sitting on a chair that is too high affect your body?

- It puts pressure on your thighs which reduces the flow of blood and can cause varicose veins and swelling in the legs and ankles
- It puts pressure on the sciatic nerve causing pain or discomfort

#### How does sitting on a chair that is too low affect your body?

- It disrupts blood circulation in lower legs, causing swelling
- It creates too much pressure on buttocks and causes discomfort
- It can cause rounding of the lower back, resulting in lower back pain
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## How does work at a worktable that is too high affect your health?

- It causes bending of the wrists to reach the worktable, or resting the wrists on the edge which result in damage to tissues and pain
- It prevents use of proper lumbar support and can cause back injury
- It makes it necessary to lift the shoulders, causing pain
- It tires the whole body

### How does work at a worktable that is too low affect your health?

- It causes excessive rounding and bending of the back to reach the worktable, leading to back pain
- Bending of the wrists may occur when working on the table (e.g., typing on a keyboard), causing wrist pain
- Supporting the weight of the upper body causes fatigue

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