



Put a *Spring* In Your Step

Name:

Phone:

Email:



Getting Active

Being active and doing exercises can reduce your risk of falling and help prevent injury from a fall. Find an activity that you enjoy, and do it.

Exercises at the Kitchen Sink:

- Improve your balance
- Increase your strength, endurance and flexibility
- Help you sleep better
- Improve your mood
- Can be done in your home...and are free!

People who do these exercises routinely report being stronger and looking and feeling better. Regular physical activity can help prevent diseases such as diabetes, dementia and some types of cancer.



Do exercises you feel comfortable doing.

- Start slowly and if necessary do just one of the exercises each day. Increase the exercises as you are able. Try a few every morning, afternoon and evening rather than trying to do them all at once.
- If any activity causes you increased pain or shortness of breath, do fewer or stop that activity and talk with your doctor.
- The exercises in this booklet are done while supporting yourself by holding onto a stable surface, such as a kitchen sink. Over time, as you get stronger, gradually decrease the amount of support you use through your hands, working towards not needing to hold on at all.
- Keep track of how many of each exercise you do. This will help you see your progress.

Now let's begin!



EXERCISE 1

Slow Toe Taps

1. Stand facing the kitchen sink. Hold on with both hands.
2. Starting with the right foot keep the heel on the floor and lift your toes up.
3. Count 1, 2, 3 while you lift your toes and then lower them and relax.
4. Repeat with the left foot. Lift, 1, 2, 3 lower, relax.
5. Continue to do this 3 to 5 times with each foot. Do them slowly.
6. Gradually add one or more repetitions every few days until you can do this 15 times with each foot.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- How are you feeling after this exercise?
- Are you ready to continue?



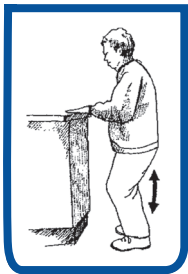
EXERCISE 2

Up on Toes

1. Stand facing the kitchen sink. Hold on with both hands.
2. Raise up onto the toes of both feet. Come down slowly.
3. Again, up on toes, down slowly.
4. Continue doing this 3 to 5 more times if you can.
5. Gradually add one more repetition every few days or once a week until you can do this 15 times.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- How are you feeling after this exercise?
- Should you stop, or are you okay to continue?
- As you are able, try to decrease the amount of support through your hands as your strength and balance improve.



EXERCISE 3

Mini Squats

1. Stand facing the sink with your feet comfortably apart.
2. Hold on with both hands.
3. Bend your knees slightly keeping your back straight.
Keep your heels on the floor.
4. Hold for a few seconds if you are able. Now straighten your knees.
5. Bend your knees slightly again, hold...then straighten.
Do this 3 to 5 times.
6. Add one more squat every few days as you are able until you can do 15.

Remember don't bend too far – do a small squat only.



EXERCISE 4

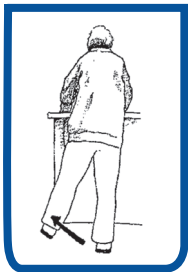
Walking on the Spot

1. Stand facing the kitchen sink. Hold on with both hands.
2. Walk or march slowly on the spot. Count to 30.
3. Bring your knees up and slowly lower your foot back to the floor.
Great work!
4. Every third or fourth day gradually increase the time spent walking by one minute.

When you are strong enough, you may want to begin walking around your home for a few minutes without stopping. When you do this, use the mobility aide that you normally use for walking.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- How are you feeling after this exercise?
- Are you standing tall and strong?
- Are you ready to continue?



EXERCISE 5

Alternate Leg Out and In

1. Stand facing the sink. Hold on with both hands.
2. Keeping your toes pointing forward, lift your left leg out to the side.
3. Hold this position for a few seconds if you can, then slowly lower leg back to the centre.
4. Now lift your right leg out to the side. Hold and lower back to the centre.
5. Keep alternating legs, left...then right...Repeat 3 to 5 times.
6. Keep strong and tall. Do not let your upper body sway.
7. Do one more set - including both left and right legs each week until eventually you can do 15 sets.



EXERCISE 5

Alternate Leg Out and In

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- How are you feeling after this exercise?
- Remember, as your strength and balance improves try to decrease the amount of support through your hands.
 - Try holding on with one hand, and a few fingers of the other hand.
 - When you get comfortable with that, hold on with a few fingers of each hand.
 - Now try to rest one finger of each hand on the counter.
 - Then try one finger of one hand.
 - When you are strong enough, try no hands.
 - You may not be able to do this in the beginning, but as you get stronger you will rely less on the support of your hands.

Are you ready to continue?



EXERCISE 6

Alternate Leg Behind

1. Stand tall and strong facing the sink. Hold on with both hands.
2. Extend your left leg behind you without bending your knee.
3. Return your leg to the starting position.
4. Next extend your right leg behind you, then return.
5. Check that you are keeping your back straight and not leaning too far forward.
6. Continue alternating each leg, repeating 3 to 5 times.
7. Increase the amount you do every few days until you can do 15 sets.



EXERCISE 6

Alternate Leg Behind

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- How are you feeling after this exercise?
- Are you ready to continue?
- Before you continue, take a minute and check your posture:
 - Stand tall and strong
 - Feet on the floor with toes pointing forward
 - Keep your head up looking forward
- Rest if you need to.



EXERCISE 7

Sit to Stand

It is important **not** to rush through this exercise.

1. Sit in a firm chair with the back of the chair against the wall if possible. If you have a walker, place it in front of you - lock the brakes.
2. Bring your bottom a little closer to the front of the chair if needed.
3. Place your feet flat on the floor, close to the chair. Put your hands on the armrests.
4. Lean forward and stand up.
5. Stand tall for a few seconds, holding onto your walker if you need it for support.
6. Step back until you feel the chair against the back of your legs, reach back to hold the armrests, and slowly lower yourself to sit down in the chair.
7. When you are ready again, stand tall for a few seconds, then sit down. Do this 3 to 5 more times.
8. Do one more sit to stand every few days as you are able until you can do 15.



EXERCISE 7

Sit to Stand

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



- How are you feeling after completing all of the exercises you have selected to do at this time?
- Remember:
 - Mark your calendar as an exercise day
 - As you feel stronger, try to use less support through your hands

Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!
You are taking charge of your health.

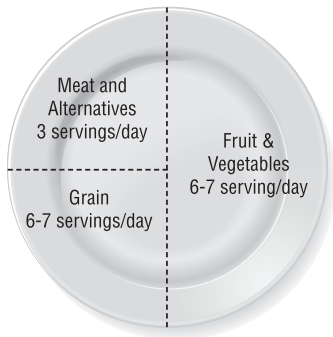
Continue reading through this booklet to learn other things that can help keep you safe and independent!

Healthy Eating

Follow Canada's Food Guide for adults over 50.
Search online at www.hc-sc.gc.ca.



Milk and
Alternatives
3 servings/day



For information about Meals on Wheels or similar meal programs contact your local health unit, community health centre or call 211.

Still have questions? Connect with a Registered Dietitian for free. Call EatRight Ontario 1-877-510-5102.

Drink up!

At every age, it's important to drink enough fluid because it helps prevent dehydration, joint and muscle pain, and constipation.

As we get older it gets harder to recognize when you're thirsty. Try keeping a water bottle with you wherever you go, and take sips throughout the day.

Don't wait until you feel thirsty to have a drink of water!

Water is best, but other drinks and foods can also help you meet your fluid needs. These include: milk or fortified soy, rice, or almond beverage, 100% fruit or vegetable juices, low sodium soups, herbal teas, and vegetables and fruits. Limit sugar-sweetened drinks and keep caffeinated beverages to 3 cups or less per day. Remember, drinking alcohol could put you at risk of having a fall.

Look for the Blue W Symbol at business and municipal locations throughout your region and refill your water bottle for FREE! Check it out. <http://www.bluew.org/>



Calcium

Calcium is important for bone health. If you do not get 3 servings of milk or milk alternatives such as cheese or yogurt each day you may need to take a calcium supplement. These come in different forms such as chewable, tablets or liquid.

Vitamin D

We need calcium to keep our bones strong, but it is also important to get enough vitamin D to help our bodies absorb the calcium. We can make vitamin D from sunlight, but this gets harder as we age.

- Older adults spend less time in the sunlight
- Some medications block vitamin D (Dilantin, prednisone, some laxatives)

Foods that have vitamin D include milk, some fortified soy, rice, and almond beverages (check the label), fortified 100% orange juice, salmon, tuna. It's difficult to get enough vitamin D, so it is recommended that all adults over the age of 50 take a vitamin D supplement.

Many supplements have both vitamin D and calcium.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to find a supplement that is right for you.

Don't forget your fibre!

We all know that fibre is good for us, but why?

Getting enough fibre:

- Keeps you regular and prevents constipation
- Improves blood sugar levels in people with diabetes
- Keeps you feeling full for longer
- Can lower levels of cholesterol and fat in your blood
- Lowers your risk of colon cancer, heart disease and digestive problems

Get more fibre everyday.

- Start your day with high-fibre cereal (oatmeal, bran)
- Have a fruit or vegetable with every meal and as a snack
- Eat the skins on your fruits and vegetables
- Choose whole grain or whole wheat bread, pasta and rice
- Add chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils, and other beans to your soup, pasta and salad
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about taking a fibre supplement (Metamucil®, Benefibre®)

**** Make sure to drink plenty of water ****

NOTE: If you use laxatives regularly, talk to your doctor.

Make your home a safer place.

Most falls occur at home. Some simple changes can make your home safer for you.

✓ In your home...	✓ When you go out...
Place a night- light in the hallway and bathroom	Leave a light on by your door or steps
Leave space around your furniture. Be clutter free	Don't be in a rush...take the time you need
Remove throw rugs and scatter mats or if not possible securely tape down	Keep steps and walkways in good condition
Get a portable phone and keep it within reach; don't rush to answer it - they will call back	Shovel or apply salt, sand or grit to melt snow and ice on steps and walkways
Keep the things you often use on easy to reach shelves	Paint the edge of all steps a contrasting colour (indoor and outdoor)
Coil or tape cords next to the wall and out of the way	Watch for and report cracked or uneven walkways

Practice Makes Perfect

If you fall and can get up:

- Ease yourself up onto your elbows
- Move onto your hands and knees
- Hold onto a firm surface such as a chair or toilet to support yourself
- Turn yourself gently and sit on a firm surface
- Face the surface and ease yourself to a standing position



What if you can't get up?

Get someone's attention:

- Shout or bang something against the wall
- Press your personal alarm button if you have one
- Use the telephone if you can

Get comfortable:

- Find a near by pillow or cushion or roll up an item of clothing to put under your head
- Keep warm by covering yourself up with anything you can safely reach
- Roll away from a damp area if your bladder "lets go"
- Prevent stiffness and help your circulation by moving your position as you are able

Week 1

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Your hard work will
pay off!

Grab and Go ~ precut veggies in a ziplock bag with a damp paper towel

Week 2

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Reward yourself -
plan a picnic hike

Grab and Go ~ cereal trail mix with dried fruit

Week 3

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

You are getting
closer!

Grab and Go ~ whole wheat mini pita suffed with peanut butter / banana

Week 4

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Reward yourself - buy
new walking shorts!

Grab and Go ~ yogurt tubes or cups

Week 5

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Reward yourself - pick
up a fresh fruit salad bowl

Grab and Go ~ cheese portion and Triscuits

Week 6

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

**Congratulations,
you're almost there!**

Grab and Go ~ whole fresh fruit, individual apple sauce

Week 7

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Keep this up and the
benefits will amaze you!

Grab and Go ~ Newton type cookies

Week 8

Day	Date	Exercise 1 Toe Taps	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 2 Heel Raises	Exercise 3 Mini Squats	Exercise 4 Walking	Exercise 5 Side Leg Raises	Exercise 6 Leg Behind	Exercise 7 Sit to Stand
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Total Time

Reward yourself - whip
up a fruit smoothie!

Grab and Go ~ ham and cheese in a whole wheat wrap



Mount Forest
Family Health Team



Upper Grand
Family Health Team

Minto-Mapleton
Family Health Team

SENIORS' CENTRE *for* **EXCELLENCE**

