

# Helpful Hints

*Learn and practice good posture and body mechanics.  
A straight, properly aligned back avoids unnecessary wear and tear.*

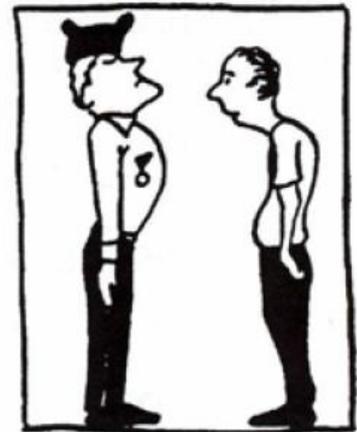
**GOOD**



*Test your posture by standing with your back against a wall. You will learn the mechanics of good posture by trying to straighten your back. A lazy slouch posture or “military” posture increases the curves in your back. Many people develop poor posture early in life. Teenagers may tend to slouch to be “cool.” Tall girls and boys may try to look shorter by slumping. Short people tend to try to look tall and generally have good posture. Good posture does prevent backaches.*

*Straighten the curve in your neck by standing tall with your chin slightly tucked in. You can straighten the curve in your low back (sway back) by tucking in your stomach and tilting you pelvis forward (pelvic tilt). Tighten the muscles in your buttocks and bend your knees slightly.*

**BAD**



## Strain Relief

If you are experiencing back strain, take a few moments off and give your back a break. Here are some rest positions that can relieve your back by straightening your spine and tilting the pelvis forward.

Assume a squatting position; hold onto the back of a chair. Two to five minutes is all that is necessary.



Lean forward in your chair and lower your head to your knees for two to five minutes.



Lie on your back flat on the floor and place your legs up onto the seat of a chair. For maximum relief, this position should be held for five to ten minutes.



# Back Care... Keep a Straight Back!

## Lifting

Bend your knees, not your back! Lift with your legs and hold objects close to your body. Lift objects only chest high. When the load is heavy, get help and plan ahead to avoid sudden load shifts.



## Walking-Standing

Stand with one foot up; change positions often. Bend with knees to keep back straight. Walk with good posture keeping head high, chin tucked in, pelvis forward, toes straight ahead. Wear comfortable shoes.



## Driving

Move the car seat forward to keep knees bent and higher than hips. Sit straight; drive with both hands on the wheel.

## Sitting

Sit in chairs low enough to place both feet on the floor with your knees higher than your hips. You may cross your legs or put your feet up on a stool. Sit firmly against the back of the chair.



## Sleeping

A good night's sleep on a firm mattress is good for you and your back. Sleep on your side with knees bent, or on your back with a pillow under your knees.

