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NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2022



THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING ACTIVE DURING WINTER MONTHS

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THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING *ACTIVE DURING* WINTER MONTHS

Just because it is winter, it doesn't mean you have to stay indoors! It is easy to want to stay in, nestled up in blankets, while it's snowy and cold. However, remaining active in the winter months is just as important as remaining active during any other season!

The winter presents several fun activities that can double as workouts. Even something as small as taking a walk around the neighborhood to look at holiday lights or building a snowman with your kids can give you the amount of daily exercise you need.

At Recovery Physical Therapy, we can design specialized treatment plans for anyone who may need a little extra push in staying active during the winter. Contact us today to learn more!

What are the benefits of exercising during the winter?

It is an undeniable fact that daily exercise is an important part of staying healthy and promoting wellness. It seems easier to get up and exercise when it is warm out, but there is actually evidence to support the benefits of working out in the cold. Depending on the type of workout, exercising in colder weather can actually have a more positive effect on the body than exercising in the heat.

According to a study titled "Exercise in the cold," found in the Journal of Sports Sciences, temperatures hovering around 50 degrees Fahrenheit are optimal for high or moderate intensity workouts. Conversely, low intensity workouts are better performed indoors during colder months, as sufficient metabolic heat may not be generated well enough to offset the cooler environment.

Exercise also helps loosen muscles that may become stiff in the winter months, making it easier to maneuver around in your orthotic or prosthetic device. Additional benefits to winter exercising include:

- **Sunlight intake.** Vitamin D is important! Many people lack Vitamin D in the winter, due to a scarcity of desire to venture out in the cold. However, simply stepping outside can have positive effects. Sunlight can act as a natural mood booster, which may even increase motivation to exercise.
- **Absence of heat/humidity.** Too much heat or humidity can sometimes feel suffocating. During colder months, this isn't an issue. In fact, exercising in the cold can feel invigorating, as the crisp air can increase your energy. You run out of breath easier when it is hot and humid, so when that is taken away, you may be able to work out for longer periods of time.
- **Immune system boost.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, even just a few minutes of outdoor exposure during the winter can help prevent against both bacterial and viral infections. This will help warm up the muscles you will need to use for the entire ski/snowboard season and get you used to the sport again. It can also help avoid unnecessary muscle strains or other painful injuries.

Avoiding falls in the winter:

While exercise in the winter is important, icy walkways unfortunately pose a higher risk of falling. This can lead to a higher risk of injury, such as strains, sprains, and tears.

Continues inside

Come back to PT!

Call Recovery Physical Therapy today at
(917) 763-7825. You can also visit our
website at www.recoverypt.com.

We are proud to be on your team! Call Recovery PT today at (917) 763-7825 to make an appointment.

Continued from outside

At Recovery Physical Therapy, we want to make sure you stay as balanced this winter, so you can enjoy doing the activities of the season without fearing a harsh fall!

There are some steps you can take on your own to decrease your risk of sustaining a fall-related injury while participating in winter activities. These include:

- Choose shoes with winter soles for traction. You can also get a pair of ski or walking poles to help keep your balance. As an added bonus, these poles will also help you burn extra calories since your upper body is getting a workout too.
- Add slip-on spikes to your boots on the extra icy days, to reduce your risk of slips and falls.
- Allow at least 10 minutes to warm up when exercising in the winter. When it's cold, your heart and muscles need more time to get ready and prepare for exercise – this can help you avoid unwanted injuries.
- No matter what winter activity or exercise you're partaking in, warm-ups should always include a combination of low-intensity movements that will make the physical activity easier to perform. For example, if you decide to go on a walk or run through the winter wonderland that your street has become, you could warm up with lunges, squats, arm swings, or jumping jacks, making sure to also get a good stretch in your calves and thighs. This will keep your body warm while you exercise and will be a good way for you to feel out the terrain beforehand to see if it's too icy.
- Add in any additional assists, as needed. Snow and ice are the main culprits for many injuries during the wintertime, which is why it is important to add to your stability. Ice cleats or rubber-soled boots can provide you with grip and support. Using a cane or crutch can also help in remaining steady on frozen terrain. Our trained CPOs can help you figure out if an additional assist would benefit you.

Contact us today!

Whether you're looking for ways to get moving in the winter or figuring out how to maneuver icy terrain in your orthosis or prosthesis, Recovery Physical Therapy can help. Contact us today to find out how we can help make your winter season as enjoyable as possible!

(917) 763-7825

WINTER DOESN'T HAVE TO SLOW YOU DOWN



AT-HOME EXERCISE

Helps to relax

PRAYER STRETCH

While in a crawl position, slowly lower your buttocks towards your feet until a stretch is felt along your back and/or buttocks.

Good stretch if you sit at a computer all day



Make sure to consult your PT before attempting new exercises you are unsure of doing.

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4 Health Tips For The New Year

Shop Well For Yourself. It is more important than ever to stock your kitchen with healthy foods. Have healthy snacks handy. The more convenient they are, the more likely you are to eat them. Instead of thinking about what you shouldn't eat, promise to eat your 3 to 5 servings of vegetables each day.

Schedule Your Exercise. Your schedule will be very hectic this year, like every year. Schedule your workouts just as you would any other appointment. It's okay if you can't make it to class, but make sure that you get some activity in at least three days per week.

Just Say No. You probably aren't aware how much extra food you consume just from people offering it to you. A sample at the market here, an extra cookie at an office party there and it all adds up. Just think twice before you take that food and decide if you really want it.

Hydrate. Keep your water bottle with you at all times. You should be drinking eight, 8-ounce glasses of water each day. One handy trick is to buy a 64 ounce water jug. Fill it up in the morning and know that you need to finish it by the end of the day.



5 SIMPLE TIPS FOR SHOVELING SNOW

- 1. Warm up.** Warm your muscles before heading out to shovel by doing some light movements, such as bending side to side or walking in place.
- 2. Push rather than lift.** Pushing the snow with the shovel instead of lifting can help reduce the strain on your body.
- 3. Lighten your load.** Consider using a lighter-weight plastic shovel instead of a metal one to help decrease the weight being lifted.
- 4. Consider multiple trips.** Consider shoveling periodically throughout the storm to avoid having to move large amounts of snow at once.
- 5. Keep up with snowfall.** Try to shovel snow shortly after it falls, when it is lighter and fluffier. The longer snow stays on the ground, the wetter it can become. Wet snow is heavier and harder to move.



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Would you take a moment to share your experience on our Google Review page?

We make it easy: just scan your Recovery PT Location's QR code with your smartphone's camera.

Your success story could help improve the lives of others in our community by leading them to therapy!

Thank you so much for your support!



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UPPER EAST SIDE



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