

# ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



APRIL 2024

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## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC WALK AROUND THE CLOCK



**A**pril 5th is National Walking Day. It's an opportunity to try to fit more movement into your daily routines. If you are looking for a way to take a step in that direction (pun intended!), the following tips from the American Heart Association are for you.

### Get up and going early

- Before you go to bed at night, lay out your walking clothes and shoes so it's easy to put them on quickly and head out the door.
- Eat a piece of fruit or a container of yogurt for quick energy, either first thing or on the go.

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# ***Most adults should try to get at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity activity. Thirty minutes of brisk walking at least five days a week is one way to meet this goal.***

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- Create an upbeat playlist of your favorite songs to help get you moving. But make sure you can still hear traffic while listening to music.
- If it is still dark, carry a light or wear reflective clothes.
- Stretch after your walk. You can even watch a morning news show or check your email while stretching.

## **Add in a mid-day movement break at lunch**

- Schedule your lunchtime walk in your calendar, like an important meeting or appointment.
- Keep everything you need for walking at work or in your car, so you will never be without them.
- Recruit co-workers or friends to join you. You can keep each other on track and accountable.
- Depending on your walking pace, the weather and how much you sweat, you may be able to wear your work clothes and just put on athletic shoes. Or you may prefer to keep a change of clothes handy with your shoes.
- In cooler weather, you might need a jacket, hat, or gloves. If you're walking briskly, you'll heat up in a few minutes, so don't overdress.
- Do not skip lunch. Bring food with you or pick a route where you can grab a quick healthy meal at the end of your walk.

## **Wind down from your day with a walk**

- Have a light snack about an hour or two before you leave work so you don't feel an energy dip and talk yourself out of walking. You could try fruit, trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers as easy afternoon snacks.
- Pick a route without heavy traffic because air pollutants are worse during rush hour.
- Before heading out or as you begin your walk, do some shoulder rolls and other warm-ups to release any stress you may be carrying.



- Carry a light or wear reflective clothing if it's already dark or getting dark while you are out.

When you choose to move is up to you. The important thing is fitting it in! Most adults should try to get at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity activity. Thirty minutes of brisk walking at least five days a week is one way to meet this goal. Whether you do all 30 minutes at once or spread it out during your day is up to you!

### **REFERENCE:**

<https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/walking/fit-in-walking-morning-noon-or-night>

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