

Knee Pain Exercises



Knee Flexion with Heel Slide © Healthwise, Incorporated



Quad Sets © Healthwise, Incorporated



Straight-leg Raises to the Front © Healthwise, Incorporated



Active Knee Flexion © Healthwise, Incorporated



Quadriceps Stretch (facedown)



Heel Dig Bridging © Healthwise, Incorporated



Shallow Standing Knee Bends



Stationary Exercise Bike

Knee Flexion with Heel Slide: Lie on your back with your knees bent. Slide your heel back by bending your affected knee as far as you can. Then hook your other foot around your ankle to help pull your heel even further back. Hold for about 6 seconds, then rest for up to 10 seconds. Repeat 8 to 12 times. Switch legs and repeat the steps, even if only one knee is sore.

Quad Sets: Sit with your affected leg straight and supported on the floor. Place a small, rolled-up towel under your knee. Your other leg should be bent, with that foot flat on the floor. Tighten the thigh muscles of your affected leg by pressing the back of your knee down into the towel. Hold for about 6 seconds, the rest for up to 10 seconds. Repeat 8 to 12 times. Switch legs and repeat the steps, even if only one knee is sore.

Straight-leg Raises to the Front: Lie on your back with your good knee bent so that your foot rests flat on the floor. Your affected leg should be straight. Make sure that your low back has a normal curve. Tighten the thigh muscles in your affected leg by pressing the back of your knee flat down to the floor. Hold your knee straight. Keeping the thigh muscles tight and your leg straight, lift your affected leg up so that your heel is about 12 inches off the floor. Hold for about 10 seconds, lower slowly. Relax for up to 10 seconds between repetitions. Repeat 8 to 12 times. Switch legs and repeat the steps, even if only one knee is sore.

Active Knee Flexion: Lie on your stomach with your knees straight. If your kneecap is uncomfortable, roll up a washcloth and put it under your leg just about your kneecap. Lift the foot of your affected leg by bending the knee so that you bring the foot up toward your buttock. If this motion hurts, try it without bending your knee quite as far. This may help you avoid any painful motion. Slowly move your leg up and down. Repeat 8 to 12 times. Switch legs and repeat the steps, even if only one knee is sore.

Quadriceps Stretch (facedown): Lie flat on your stomach, and rest your face on the floor. Wrap a towel or belt strap around the lower part of your affected leg. Then use the towel or belt strap to slowly pull your heel toward your buttock until you feel a stretch. Hold for about 15 to 30 seconds, then relax your leg against the towel or belt strap. Repeat 2 to 4 times. Switch legs and repeat the steps, even if only one knee is sore.

Heel Dig Bridging: Lie on your back with both knees bent and your ankles bent so that only your heels are digging into the floor. Your knees should be bent about 90 degrees. Then push your heels into the floor, squeeze your buttocks, and lift your hips off the floor until your shoulders, hips and knees are all in a straight line. Hold for about 6 seconds as you continue to breathe normally, and then slowly lower your hips back down to the floor. Do 8 to 12 repetitions.

Shallow Standing Knee Bends: Stand with your hands lightly resting on a counter or chair in front of you. Put your feet shoulder-width apart. Slowly bend your knees so that you squat down like you are going to sit in a chair. Make sure your knees do not go in front of your toes. Lower yourself about 6 inches. Your heels should remain on the floor at all times. Rise slowly to a standing position.

Stationary Exercise Bike: If you do not have a stationary exercise bike at home, you can find one to ride at your local health club or community center. Adjust the height of the bike seat so that your knee is slightly bent when your leg is extended downward. If your knee hurts when the pedal reaches the top, you can raise the seat so that your knee does not bend as much. Start slowly. At first, try to do 5 to 10 minutes of cycling with little to no resistance. Then increase your time and the resistance bit by bit until you can do 20 to 30 minutes without pain. If you start to have pain, rest your knee until your pain gets back to the level that is normal for you. Of cycle for less or with less effort.