



Stages of Sleep

- Stage 1
- Stage 2
- Stage 3
- Stage 4
- REM Rapid Eye Movement

Non-REM

Non-REM Sleep

- Body temperature drops, breathing and pulse slow, and dreams are less intense.
- Brain waves become slower.
- Deep sleep occurs.
- Little to no eye movement or muscle activity.
- Body recharging itself.

REM Sleep

- Stage of most intense dreaming.
- Breathing, pulse and temperature go up.
- About 25% of each sleep cycle is REM sleep.
- Brain-waves resemble wakeful patterns.

How Much Sleep Do We Need?

- Depends on many factors, including age.
- For most adults, 7-8 hours a night seems best, but some people need as few as 5 hours or as many as 10 hours.
- Too little sleep causes a sleep debt similar to being overdrawn at a bank. Your body will collect!
- If you feel drowsy during the day, you haven't had enough sleep.

Tips for a Good Night's Sleep

- Set a schedule Go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning.
- Exercise Try to exercise 20 30 minutes a day. Daily exercise often helps people sleep. Try to exercise about 5-6 hours before going to bed.
- Avoid caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol Avoid drinks with caffeine acts as a stimulant and keeps people awake. Nicotine can cause withdrawals which cause smokers to sleep lightly and wake up early. Alcohol robs people of deep sleep and REM sleep.
- Relax before bed Create a relaxing routine to make it easier to fall asleep.

Tips for a Good Night's Sleep

- Sleep until sunlight Wake up with the sun, or use very bright lights in the morning. Bright lights help the body's internal biological clock reset itself each day.
- Don't lie in bed awake Do something else, like reading, watching TV, listening to music, until you feel tired.
- Control your room temperature Maintain a comfortable temp. in the bedroom. Too hot or too cold may disrupt sleep or prevent you from falling asleep.
- See a doctor if your sleeping problem continues If you have trouble falling asleep night after night, or always feel tired the next the day, you may have a sleep disorder. Your primary care physician may be able to help you. Most sleep disorders can be treated effectively, so you can finally get that good night's sleep you need.

References

- National Sleep Foundation
- National Institute of Health
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- Getting What You Want From Sleep (Brochure)