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# Caring For Your Laptop

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Laptops can be easily damaged and lead to the loss of important data or programs -- they can also be very time consuming and expensive to fix, so it's important you take great care in the usage, handling and transport of your laptop.

Below is a list of important tips for taking care of your laptop.

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## Keep it Dry and Clean

- Do not expose your computer to liquids or moisture.
- Be very careful when eating or drinking near your laptop.
- Do not expose your laptop to dirty or dusty environments.
- Try not to touch the screen (unless it is a touch screen laptop!), or splatter liquids, etc. near the screen.
- Do not use regular window cleaners to clean your laptop screen. You can purchase laptop screen cleaning kits from most computer supply stores.

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## Handle with Care -- It can break!

- Take care not to drop or place heavy objects on top of the laptop.
- Keep your laptop off the floor.
- Don't carry a laptop by its screen -- try to avoid touching the screen altogether.
- Do not place your laptop on uneven or unstable work area surfaces from which it could fall.

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## Keep It Cool and Neutral

- Do not expose your laptop to extreme heat (122°F, 50°C) or extreme cold (below 0°C, 32°F) or direct sunlight.
- Keep your laptop away from strong magnetic or electrical fields.

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## Protect It

Try to always carry your laptop in a backpack, carry bag, etc. with a protective pocket specifically made for laptops. Do not carry an unprotected laptop in your backpack along with your books etc. as they can be easily damaged

while being carried around unprotected. If you must carry your laptop in an unprotected backpack, try to wrap it with bubble wrap, foam rubber, etc.

If you don't already have a backpack that has a protective pocket for laptops, we recommend that you purchase one. More information on protective backpacks can be found at: <http://mobileoffice.about.com/od/packingyourmobilegear/a/bgllaptopcase.htm>

## Keep it Healthy

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**Faculty & Staff:** University managed workstations are already protected, as a result you **DO NOT** need to install additional virus protection on your work laptop or try to encrypt your hard drive without involving your IT support team, which can be contacted here <https://computing.wharton.upenn.edu/>.

## Install Virus Protection Software

Make sure you use **Virus protection**.

## Encrypt your Hard Drive

Some computers have built-in functionality to encrypt your hard drive. This will ensure that your personal data is safe even if your device is physically stolen. Computers running Windows 11 Pro, Enterprise, and Education editions can enable **BitLocker**, and those running MacOS Lion or later can enable **FileVault**.

**NOTE:** It is **very important** when enabling device encryption that you securely store your recovery key. Having access to your recovery key means that you'll always have access to your data in case you are locked out.

## Enable *Find My Device* for MacOS

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Find My Mac & Find My iPhone are two services that Apple provides to allow users to track the GPS location of their devices. Learn how to enable both of these services [here](#).

## Consider Buying a Security Cable

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Security cables are essentially bike locks for your laptop. Devices compatible with security cables allow you to physically lock your device to a desk and require a user to unlock the cable using either a key or combination. Security cables can be bought from most computer supply stores.

## Questions?

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