kettlebell workouts for women over 50

The Benefits of Kettlebell Workouts for Women Over 50

kettlebell workouts for women over 50 offer a powerful and effective way to build strength, improve cardiovascular health, enhance balance, and boost metabolism. As women age, maintaining muscle mass and bone density becomes increasingly crucial for overall well-being and independence. Kettlebells, with their unique design, allow for dynamic, compound movements that engage multiple muscle groups simultaneously, providing a full-body workout in a relatively short amount of time. This article will delve into the specific advantages kettlebell training provides for this demographic, explore essential safety considerations, outline foundational exercises, and offer guidance on creating a personalized training plan. Discover how incorporating kettlebells can significantly enhance your fitness journey and promote a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Table of Contents
Introduction to Kettlebell Workouts for Women Over 50
Understanding the Benefits
Safety First: Getting Started Right
Foundational Kettlebell Exercises for Women Over 50
Building Your Kettlebell Workout Routine
Nutritional Considerations and Recovery
Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding the Benefits of Kettlebell Training for Women Over 50

As women enter their fifties and beyond, physiological changes occur that can impact strength, bone density, and metabolic rate. Kettlebell workouts are exceptionally well-suited to address these age-related challenges. The dynamic nature of kettlebell exercises promotes functional strength, meaning the ability to perform everyday activities with ease. This translates to improved mobility for tasks like carrying groceries, climbing stairs, or even playing with grandchildren. Furthermore, the ballistic movements inherent in kettlebell training, such as the swing, elevate the heart rate, providing a significant cardiovascular benefit that is essential for heart health and endurance.

One of the most compelling advantages of kettlebell workouts for women over 50 is their impact on bone density. Weight-bearing exercises, like those performed with kettlebells, stimulate osteoblasts, the cells responsible for bone formation. This can help combat osteoporosis, a common condition that weakens bones and increases fracture risk. The consistent challenge to the skeletal system through controlled resistance training is a proactive measure

for maintaining bone health and preventing age-related bone loss.

Metabolic health is another key area where kettlebell training shines. The combination of strength training and cardiovascular exertion burns a substantial number of calories, both during the workout and in the hours that follow, a phenomenon known as the afterburn effect. This increased metabolic rate can aid in weight management and improve insulin sensitivity, which are vital for preventing and managing type 2 diabetes. By building lean muscle mass, women over 50 can create a more efficient metabolism that supports their overall health and energy levels.

Safety First: Getting Started Right with Kettlebells

Embarking on a kettlebell journey requires a strong emphasis on safety, especially for women over 50 who may have pre-existing conditions or be new to strength training. The most critical first step is to seek guidance from a certified personal trainer experienced with kettlebell instruction. They can assess your current fitness level, identify any limitations, and teach you proper form for each exercise, which is paramount to preventing injuries. Understanding the correct technique minimizes the risk of strains, sprains, and other musculoskeletal issues.

Before even picking up a kettlebell, it is wise to consult with your healthcare provider. Discuss your intention to start a new exercise program, particularly one involving weights, to ensure it is appropriate for your individual health status. Your doctor can advise on any specific precautions or modifications you might need based on your medical history, such as joint pain or cardiovascular concerns.

When selecting your initial kettlebell weight, always err on the side of caution. It is far better to start with a lighter weight and master the form than to attempt a heavier weight prematurely and risk injury. Women typically start with lighter weights, often in the range of 4-8 kilograms (9-18 pounds), depending on their current strength. Gradually increasing the weight should only occur once you can perform the exercises with perfect form and without strain.

Proper warm-up and cool-down are non-negotiable components of any kettlebell workout. A dynamic warm-up, including exercises like arm circles, leg swings, and torso twists, prepares your muscles and joints for the demands of the workout, increasing blood flow and range of motion. Similarly, a cool-down with static stretching helps to improve flexibility, reduce muscle soreness, and promote recovery. Dedicate at least 5-10 minutes to both the warm-up and cool-down phases.

Foundational Kettlebell Exercises for Women Over 50

Several fundamental kettlebell exercises form the cornerstone of an effective routine for women over 50. These movements are designed to be accessible yet challenging, targeting major muscle groups and promoting functional strength. Mastering these foundational moves will build confidence and prepare you for more advanced variations.

The Kettlebell Swing

The kettlebell swing is often considered the king of kettlebell exercises, offering a full-body workout that targets the posterior chain (glutes, hamstrings, and back), core, and shoulders. Proper form is crucial to avoid straining the lower back. The movement should be initiated by hinging at the hips, not by squatting. Imagine pushing your hips back as if trying to close a door with your glutes. The kettlebell swings up between your legs and then powerfully drives forward using the hip thrust, not by lifting with your arms. Keep your core braced throughout the movement.

The Goblet Squat

The goblet squat is an excellent exercise for building lower body strength and improving mobility in the hips and ankles. Holding the kettlebell by the horns close to your chest allows for a more upright torso, making it easier to maintain proper form compared to a traditional barbell squat. Start with your feet shoulder-width apart or slightly wider, toes pointed slightly outward. Lower your hips down and back as if sitting into a chair, keeping your chest up and your back straight. Aim to get your thighs parallel to the floor or lower, if comfortable and pain-free. Push through your heels to return to the starting position.

The Kettlebell Deadlift

The kettlebell deadlift is a fundamental exercise for building overall strength, particularly in the legs, glutes, and back. It's a safer alternative for beginners than some barbell deadlifts as it naturally encourages a more upright posture. Place the kettlebell on the floor between your feet. Hinge at your hips and bend your knees to grip the kettlebell with a neutral spine. Engage your glutes and hamstrings to pull the kettlebell up, keeping it close to your body. Squeeze your glutes at the top of the movement. Lower the kettlebell back to the floor with control by reversing

The Kettlebell Row

The kettlebell row is a powerful exercise for strengthening the upper back, shoulders, and biceps. This exercise can be performed with one or two kettlebells. For a single-arm row, hinge at your hips, allowing your torso to be nearly parallel to the floor. Let the kettlebell hang directly below your shoulder. Keeping your back straight and core engaged, pull the kettlebell up towards your chest, squeezing your shoulder blade. Lower the kettlebell with control. Ensure you don't twist your torso or rely on momentum.

The Kettlebell Overhead Press

The kettlebell overhead press is effective for building shoulder strength and stability, as well as upper body power. Start with the kettlebell in a racked position at your shoulder, with your elbow tucked in. Brace your core and press the kettlebell straight up overhead, locking out your elbow at the top. Lower the kettlebell back to the racked position with control. Focus on a smooth, controlled movement rather than trying to force the weight up.

Building Your Kettlebell Workout Routine

Creating a structured kettlebell workout routine is key to achieving consistent progress and avoiding plateaus. For women over 50, it's advisable to start with a full-body routine performed 2-3 times per week, allowing for rest days in between to facilitate muscle recovery and adaptation. As your fitness improves, you can gradually increase the frequency or introduce split routines that target different muscle groups on separate days.

When designing your workout, aim for a balanced approach that includes exercises for the upper body, lower body, and core. A typical session might involve 3-4 sets of 8-12 repetitions for each exercise, depending on the movement and your current strength level. The emphasis should always be on maintaining good form over lifting heavy weights.

Consider incorporating compound movements that engage multiple muscle groups, as these are more time-efficient and provide greater functional benefits. Exercises like the kettlebell swing, goblet squat, and kettlebell clean and press are excellent examples of compound movements. For example, a beginner routine could include:

• Kettlebell Swing: 3 sets of 10-12 repetitions

- Goblet Squat: 3 sets of 8-10 repetitions
- Kettlebell Deadlift: 3 sets of 8-10 repetitions
- Single-Arm Kettlebell Row: 3 sets of 8-10 repetitions per arm
- Kettlebell Overhead Press: 3 sets of 6-8 repetitions per arm

Listen to your body and adjust the intensity, volume, and rest periods as needed. If you experience any pain, stop the exercise immediately. Progressing your workouts can involve increasing the weight of the kettlebell, performing more repetitions or sets, reducing rest times, or introducing more complex exercises as your skills and strength develop. Remember that consistency is more important than intensity, especially in the initial stages.

Nutritional Considerations and Recovery for Kettlebell Training

Effective kettlebell workouts for women over 50 are significantly enhanced by paying close attention to nutrition and recovery. Proper fueling and adequate rest are crucial for muscle repair, energy replenishment, and overall performance. As we age, our bodies may require slightly different nutritional strategies to optimize these processes.

Protein intake is paramount for muscle synthesis and repair, which is especially important when engaging in strength training. Aim to consume adequate protein throughout the day, focusing on lean sources such as chicken, fish, beans, lentils, and Greek yogurt. A general guideline for active individuals is around 1.2 to 1.7 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight. Ensuring sufficient protein intake post-workout can aid in faster muscle recovery and growth.

Hydration plays a vital role in all bodily functions, including exercise performance and recovery. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, and ensure you are adequately hydrated before, during, and after your kettlebell sessions. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, reduced performance, and even muscle cramps.

Adequate sleep is perhaps the most overlooked yet critical aspect of recovery. During sleep, the body repairs and rebuilds muscle tissue, consolidates memories, and regulates hormones. Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep per night. Establishing a consistent sleep schedule and creating a relaxing bedtime routine can significantly improve sleep quality.

Active recovery, which involves light physical activity on rest days, can also be beneficial. This might include activities like walking, gentle yoga, or foam rolling. These practices can help improve blood flow to the muscles, reduce stiffness, and promote relaxation, aiding in the recovery process and preparing you for your next kettlebell workout.

Conclusion: Embracing Kettlebells for a Stronger Future

Kettlebell workouts offer a dynamic, efficient, and highly effective means for women over 50 to significantly enhance their physical health and wellbeing. By focusing on proper technique, starting with appropriate weights, and incorporating foundational exercises, you can safely and effectively build strength, improve cardiovascular fitness, boost bone density, and elevate your metabolism. The versatility of kettlebells allows for continuous progression, ensuring that your fitness journey remains challenging and rewarding. Prioritizing safety, listening to your body, and complementing your training with mindful nutrition and recovery will pave the way for a stronger, more vibrant future.

FAQ

Q: How often should women over 50 do kettlebell workouts?

A: For women over 50, it's generally recommended to start with kettlebell workouts 2-3 times per week, allowing at least one full rest day between sessions. This frequency provides enough stimulus for adaptation while allowing for adequate muscle recovery. As you become fitter, you can gradually increase to 3-4 times per week, or consider splitting your workouts to target different muscle groups on different days.

Q: What is the best starting kettlebell weight for women over 50?

A: The best starting kettlebell weight varies greatly depending on individual strength levels and fitness experience. However, for many women over 50 new to kettlebells, a weight between 4-8 kilograms (9-18 pounds) is a common starting point. It's crucial to choose a weight that allows you to perform exercises with perfect form without straining. It's always better to start lighter and master the technique.

Q: Are kettlebell workouts too intense for women over 50?

A: Kettlebell workouts can be adapted to be suitable for women over 50. The intensity is determined by the weight of the kettlebell, the number of repetitions and sets, and the complexity of the exercises. By starting with lighter weights, fewer repetitions, and simpler exercises, and gradually progressing, kettlebell training can be a safe and highly beneficial form of exercise for this age group. Consulting with a qualified trainer is highly recommended.

Q: What are the primary benefits of kettlebell training for women over 50?

A: The primary benefits include increased muscular strength and endurance, improved cardiovascular health, enhanced bone density (which helps combat osteoporosis), better balance and coordination, increased metabolism for weight management, and improved functional fitness for daily activities.

Q: What are some common kettlebell exercises suitable for beginners over 50?

A: Excellent beginner exercises include the kettlebell deadlift, goblet squat, kettlebell swing (with proper instruction on hip hinging), single-arm kettlebell row, and overhead press. These movements target major muscle groups and can be modified to suit different fitness levels.

Q: How can I ensure I'm using proper form to avoid injury with kettlebells?

A: Proper form is paramount. It is highly recommended to work with a certified personal trainer or kettlebell instructor to learn the correct technique for each exercise. They can provide real-time feedback and corrections. Focus on controlled movements, engage your core, and never sacrifice form for weight or speed.

Q: Can kettlebell workouts help with weight loss for women over 50?

A: Yes, kettlebell workouts can be very effective for weight loss. They combine strength training with cardiovascular conditioning, leading to significant calorie expenditure during the workout and an elevated metabolism in the hours that follow (the afterburn effect). Building lean muscle mass also contributes to a higher resting metabolic rate.

Q: What are the signs I might be lifting too heavy a kettlebell?

A: Signs you are lifting too heavy include: straining your back or neck, using momentum to complete the movement, being unable to maintain proper form throughout the entire set, feeling excessive joint pain (not just muscle fatigue), or experiencing dizziness or lightheadedness. If you notice any of these, it's time to decrease the weight.

Kettlebell Workouts For Women Over 50

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Lorna Kleidman, 2012-06-26 Save time on your workouts and look better than ever with expert
nutritional advice and kettlebell exercises, designed for women of all fitness levels This
comprehensive guide to this unique and wildly popular fitness tool is the first just for women and
provides easy to follow instructions, clear photographs, and extensive information on the kettlebell.
No gym required—with a small investment in the kettlebells equipment, these sculpting, toning, and
cardio fitness workouts are great for both beginners and advanced exercisers. Lorna Kleidman—the
U.S.A.'s first International Master of Kettlebell Sport—will teach you: • The differences between
dumbbells and kettlebells • How the kettlebell's shape enables endless variety of movement patterns
• Sport-specific exercises to enhance performance • Where to buy kettlebells and which kettlebells
are best for your fitness level • Basic nutritional guidelines for a more effective workout Kettlebell
workouts are more effective than traditional dumbbell routines, plus they yield better results in less
time. The kettlebell's center of mass extends beyond the hand and more muscle groups are utilized
in the swinging and movement of a kettlebell than during the lifting of dumbbells. The momentum
generated by the kettlebell also reduces stress on the joints and minimizes the chance for injury.

kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Kettlebell Workouts and Challenge 5 Taco Fleur, This book is the 5th in the Kettlebell Workouts and Challenges series, of which the first one was

written back in 2017. The format of this book has been drastically improved and includes information on the workout benefits, recommended weight selection, the weights that we used, the average time to complete the workout, how many kettlebells are used, the overall intensity of the workout, intensity for each task of a workout, the number of exercises, reviews on the workout from others, description, how to score the workout, the score that we achieved, but above all, information on how to adjust any more advanced workouts to suit beginners. A quick introduction to the person who designed the workouts, i.e., me: I have over 2 decades of kettlebell experience, training people across the world, owned three gyms, and obtained certification with StrongFirst SFG2, RGSI, IKFF, IKSFA, CrossFit, I have reached Kettlebell Sport Rank 1, and have a background in Martial Arts as a rusty BJJ Purple Belt. I mention this so that you can have confidence in the quality of this product and the training methodology. I will include some reviews for my coaching, our business, and our products taken from thousands of verifiable reviews at the end of this book. I aim to explain and present everything as simply as possible without complex terms or going into too much detail. The workouts will be presented in an easy-to-read tabular format but also a linear format so that all layout preferences are addressed. A separate easy-to-print document is also available for download to people who purchased the book; this will make it easy to take the workouts with you to the gym and also to make notes. A whole online platform and social network for kettlebell enthusiasts is also included so that you can easily record your scoring for a workout, or you can be more specific and record against a task. You can also record notes for a workout, and you will collect all your favorite workouts in one easy-to-access place if you review/rate the workouts. The social network that is dedicated to kettlebell enthusiasts allows you to interact with others, create your kettlebell profile, find workout buddies, and so much more. In short, you are not just buying a book with the world's best kettlebell workouts. Who is this book for? This book is for anyone who is looking for exciting and effective routines with one kettlebell, two kettlebells, or hybrid workouts where kettlebell and bodyweight exercises are mixed. This book is for people who want to explore workouts that utilize mobility work for active recovery between intense tasks. Buy this book if you want to: Learn several workouts to incorporate into your routine Have your kettlebell workouts designed and in an easy-to-read format Have access to kettlebell workouts that focus on all types of goals Spice up your kettlebell training and achieve results Have workouts that you can scale to your level Be able to challenge yourself when ready Experience unique kettlebell workouts In this book, you will find short workouts, long workouts, easy workouts, hard workouts, fun workouts, mentally tough workouts, mobility workouts, power workouts, strength workouts, cardio workouts, and so much more. All workouts have been completed by myself, Anna, and many of our IKU™ members. Hence, they are not just some shoddy and guickly put-together scribbles that haven't been put to the test. As someone who is over half a century of age and what I consider trains tough, I am proud to say that I have never experienced any major injuries, no hip replacements or other surgeries, and pretty much never sick. I attribute this to training hard but training smart and becoming in tune with the body and mind. Of course, an important factor is also the right nutrition and mindset.

kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Strength Training Past 50-3rd Edition Westcott, Wayne, Baechle, Thomas, 2015-04-14 Strength Training Past 50 is the authoritative guide for active adults. The all-new third edition features 83 exercises for free weights, machines, kettlebells, stability balls, and elastic bands and 30 programs for endurance, speed, and strength.

kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Fit, Fueled & Fabulous A BYB Fitness Guide for Women Over 50 Dr. Cynthia Simon, 2025-07-22 You didn't come this far to only come this far. At a certain point, you realize this next chapter is yours to claim. Fit, Fueled & Fabulous is your empowering guide to reclaiming your strength, energy, and confidence as you step boldly into midlife and beyond. This isn't about shrinking or extreme diets. It's about honoring your body, shifting your mindset, and celebrating what's possible — right now. Whether you're in your 40s, 50s, 60s, or 70s+, this book meets you where you are and helps you move forward with purpose. Inside, you'll find holistic, age-smart strategies to help you: ☐ Build a fitness routine that energizes your life, not drains it ☐ Strengthen your body and protect your joints with smart, effective training ☐ Fuel

your vitality with balanced nutrition (no fads or restrictions) \square Break free from the scale and build unshakable confidence \square Manage stress and master your mindset \square Embrace recovery, joy, and lifelong wellness without apology Built on the BYB (Be Your Best) philosophy, this guide unites mind, body, and nutrition to help you live powerfully and unapologetically. Because this isn't about slowing down, it's about shifting gears with wisdom, strength, and unstoppable grace. Your Fit, Fueled & Fabulous life starts now. Let's go!

Workouts Selene Yeager, Editors of Women's Health Maga, 2011-10-25 Time is every woman's most precious commodity—and a lack of it is the number one reason, in survey after survey, that women give for why they don't exercise. But research now shows that as little as 15 minutes of resistance training is just as effective in spiking one's metabolism as a workout lasting more than twice as long. All it takes is 15 minutes to achieve lifelong results—and women are more likely to stick to an exercise plan if it's chopped down to those 15 minutes. The Women's Health Big Book of 15-Minute Workouts is both an introduction to the fundamentals of short workouts and a comprehensive collection of hundreds of the most effective ones. These workouts have been designed for every fitness goal, from total body conditioning to targeting trouble spots with exercises like the 15 Minute Flat-Belly-without-a-Single-Crunch Workout. Other highlights include: - an eating plan with delicious meals that take 15 minutes or less to prepare - workouts for when you're stuck in traffic or traveling and can't make it to the gym - hundreds of tips from America's best trainers, nutritionists, and exercise scientists

kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Kettlebell Workouts and Challenges V1.0 Taco Fleur, 2018-03-16 This book is targetted to at-home kettlebell enthusiasts, MMA and BJJ fighters, and crossfitters that use their open box time for kettlebell WODs. This book is even for budding trainers that want to know more about the Cavemantraining programs, and learn the basics on how to run them.programs, on how to run them. 40+ serious kettlebell workouts, 4 kettlebell challenges, many are paired with very detailed videos. - Beginners to advanced workouts. - How to score AMRAP workouts. - Finer details on many of the exercises. - Quality emphasis on warming-up and mobility. -Full details of the popular Thorax Workout included in this book. - Additional ideas on how to make your WODs even more popular and exciting. - Additional little tips and information for personal trainers. Each workout is 100% kettlebells, mixed with bodyweight, or mixed with other equipment. Some workouts will have alternatives, or progressions alternatives, or progressions. These are not shoddy quick workouts put together for a book, I've performed each and every workout listed in this book, and so have hundreds of others. -Taco Fleur This book is called Kettlebell Workouts and Challenges 1.0, obviously this book is then about the workouts and challenges, hence, I will be linking to a lot of external information rather than turning this into a book about kettlebell exercises, and / or technique, I I already have several books on those. This is not to say that this book does not contain technique or exercise information, but it is kept to a minimum, illustrated with many photos, while linking to more online info. The title is prefixed with 1.0 as we will be putting out plenty of more books with new workouts. BONUS: 1. Information for trainers on how to run your own Caveman Circuit, and Boot Camp. 2. Downloadable workout PDF that can be downloaded, printed and taken to the gym. 3. Downloadable kettlebell grip PDF that will improve your kettlebell training instantly. 4. Downloadable PDF that will improve your racking for resting and endurance. 5. Free kettlebell workouts mobile app for the Android.

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one-fifth the time of a typical cardio session and debunk unproductive exercise habits. With The Great Cardio Myth you will learn to: Lose weight (and keep it off) in just a few short workouts per week. Keep your metabolism active for hours after a workout. Strengthen and protect your heart, joints, and muscles. Burn through belly fat—and other stubborn areas quickly

kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Kettlebell Workouts And Challenges 4 Taco Fleur, 2023-08-17 Kettlebell workouts for AMRAP, FOR TIME, EMOM, Circuit, Interval, HIIT, and so much more. When you buy this book, you will get intelligently designed kettlebell workouts that deliver results for people at home with one or more kettlebells from beginner to advanced and always scalable. The book contains kettlebell strength workouts, AMRAP workouts, FOR TIME workouts, high-intensity interval workouts, flexibility and mobility workouts, endurance workouts, and so much more. The book contains many under 20 and 30-minute workouts for people who are limited on time. Just grab your kettlebell, pick a 12-minute workout, and get your calorie burn in for the day. You will also get strategies and plans to incorporate these workouts into a long-term progression for certain goals. For those who are not yet familiar with all kettlebell techniques, the book also includes tips on form and technique plus common mistakes. It's very rare that a double kettlebell workout from this book can't be performed with a single kettlebell and just performing the work on one side and then the other. Therefore, even if you have just one kettlebell, you can still complete the double kettlebell workouts and as you progress with your technique and strength, you can work your way up to double kettlebell work. Each of these workouts has been designed and completed by myself, they have been completed by other Cavemantrainers, and many of our private members. In other words, they have been tested before they got to you. When it comes to kettlebell challenges, usually, I include guite a few challenges in the book, this time, the book is full of workouts and I picked the best so that there was no need to include more than two challenges. There is so much info on one of the challenges that you really could spend the rest of your training days following the challenge and obtain some of the best results you've ever seen with your training. When I completed this challenge, I was in the best shape of my life. FORM AND TECHNIQUE FIRST WEIGHT AND REPS SECOND Cavemantraining, creating workouts since 2009. We have made it our mission to do things differently from the start and go against the grain. We're not stuck on one style or one way of doing things. We experiment, we analyze, we progress, and we create some of the best hybrid workouts out there. Cavemantraining is a pioneer in the kettlebell world. We've designed over one thousand unique and original kettlebell workouts. Each one has been carefully designed with a goal in mind, so there's something for everyone looking to improve their strength through kettlebells. Since 2009, Cavemantraining has served over 18,000 online students, sold over 15,000 books, created videos with over 12 million views, and built online communities reaching over 150 thousand people. We hope you'll allow us to be a part of your journey as you discover and learn everything there is about the kettlebell. Who Will Benefit From Buying This Book? Literally, anyone who has at least one kettlebell and is interested in some of the world's best kettlebell workouts will benefit from buying this book. There are basic workouts, beginner workouts, complex, double kettlebell, and advanced exercises in this book, but it's for everyone. I provide clear instructions on how to perform two-kettlebell workouts if you only have one bell, and I explain alternatives and progressions so that you can complete the workout and work your way up to the more advanced exercise when they are used. This book is for those who are tired of performing boring workouts that just contain swings, presses, squats, and presses. This book is for those who want to venture further and expand their knowledge to see what's truly available in the kettlebell world. It's for people who want to benefit from endurance, cardio, strength, power, flexibility, mobility, hybrid workouts, and so much more exciting training.

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kettlebell workouts for women over 50: Core Strength Training DK, 2012-12-17 Building good core strength is key to fitness, helping to improve mobility, correcting poor posture, and reducing the risk of injury. Featuring more than 150 exercises and a range of specially commissioned programs designed for a wide range of activities, sports, and goals, The Complete Core Strength offers everything you need to get the very best results from your workouts.

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