

Healthy Eating

What You Need To Know



Permafold® Topics

1. What is Healthy Eating?
2. Use MyPyramid.gov – Steps to a Healthier You.™
3. Read Food Labels.
4. Healthy Eating Tips

1. What is Healthy Eating?

Healthy eating means getting enough (but not too much) of the nutrients you need for good health. These are protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans give the basics for healthy eating. These are listed below and on the next 4 panels. (These guidelines are for persons aged two years and older.) *Get updates for these from www.DietaryGuidelines.gov.*

Eat a balanced diet that stays within your calorie needs.

A balanced diet gives nutrients that your body needs. It also limits saturated and *trans* fats, cholesterol, salt, added sugars, and alcohol. These things increase the risk of health problems, like heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity.

Maintain body weight in a healthy range.

Balance the calories you eat with physical activity. To prevent weight gain over time, make small decreases in food and beverage calories and increase physical activity. Lose weight if you are overweight.



Be physically active.

Start slowly. Build gradually. Consult your health care provider before beginning an exercise program. Each week, adults should do at least:

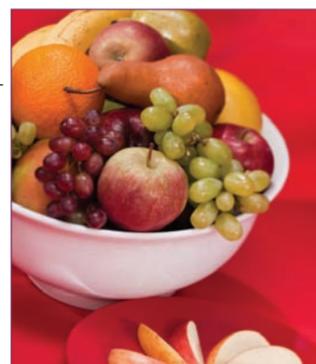
- 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) of moderate-intensity physical activity, such as walking, gardening, and water aerobics
- or
- 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) of vigorous-intensity physical activity, such as jogging, race walking, and swimming laps
- or
- A combination of these moderate- and vigorous-intensity activities

Choose a variety of whole grains daily.

These include whole wheat bread, whole-grain ready-to-eat cereals, oatmeal, whole barley in soup, and even the cracked wheat in tabouli salad. Whole grains give energy, vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, and healthy plant chemicals. Limit high-fat choices, like croissants, pastries, and granola. Limit sugar sweetened cereals.

Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables every day.

- Strive for five or more servings a day. Choose ones of different colors to get a variety of vitamins, minerals, and healthy plant chemicals.
- Choose vegetables from five subgroups (dark green, legumes – beans & peas, starchy vegetables, and other vegetables) several times a week.
- Keep ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables on the counter and in clear containers in the front of your refrigerator. Use these for snacks or meals-on-the-go.
- Limit fried vegetables and ones in cream or cheese sauces.



Keep food safe to eat.

- Wash your hands before you handle food. Use clean utensils and clean surfaces when you prepare foods.
- Separate raw, cooked, and ready-to-eat foods while shopping, preparing, or storing.
- Cook foods to a safe temperature. Check and follow the label or recipe.
- Keep hot foods higher than 14°F and cold foods at 40°F or below. Do not eat these foods when kept for more than 2 hours between 40°F and 140°F.
- Refrigerate perishable foods promptly. When in doubt, throw it out.

Choose a diet that is low in saturated and trans fats and cholesterol and moderate in total fat.

- Have as little *trans* fats as possible. These come from foods with hydrogenated oils (e.g., stick margarine, shortenings, processed snack foods, such as crackers). *Trans* fats are thought to raise LDL (“bad”) cholesterol.
- Add little fat to food. When you do, use monounsaturated fats (e.g., canola and olive oils) or polyunsaturated fats (e.g., corn and soybean oils). Limit foods with creamy sauces.
- Use nonfat and low-fat dairy products. Use soy milks and yogurts.
- Choose lean cuts of beef, pork, lamb, chicken, and turkey. Trim fat from meat. Take skin off poultry before eating. Limit fried meats, etc.
- Eat fish 2 to 3 times a week (e.g., salmon, mackerel, anchovies, and tuna). Fish has omega-3 fatty acids, a healthy unsaturated fat. This is in cod liver oil, too. Some fish have mercury, a harmful substance. Follow your doctor’s advice on eating fish, especially if you are pregnant.
- Read food labels. (See topic 3.) Choose foods low in total fat and saturated fat.
- Limit dietary cholesterol, as advised by your doctor.



Choose and prepare foods and beverages with little added sugars or caloric sweeteners.

- Read food labels for sugar content. This is listed under “Total Carbohydrate” in the “Nutrition Facts” section. (See topic 3.) Sugar content includes the natural sugar in the food and added sugars, if any. Look at the ingredient list. Avoid or limit foods that list sugar, high fructose corn syrup, etc. as the 1st or 2nd ingredient.
- Between meals, limit foods and beverages with sugars and starches. If you do have them, brush your teeth afterwards to reduce the risk of tooth decay. Chew a sugar-free gum with the artificial sweetener xylitol.
- Sugar substitutes (acesulfame, aspartame, saccharin, and sucralose) provide a sweet taste without the calories of sugar. Use them in moderation, if at all.
- Choose water, unsweetened beverages, and nonfat milk over beverages high in added sugars, such as soft drinks and fruitades.
- Choose fruit for desserts and snacks. Limit cakes, cookies, pies, and candy.

Choose and prepare foods with less salt.

- Health experts suggest limiting sodium to 1500 to 2300 milligrams a day. This is the amount of sodium in about 2/3 to 1 teaspoon of salt. You can easily get this amount from foods you eat without adding salt at the table.
- Compare the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels for sodium content in foods. Choose fresh, frozen, or low-sodium canned vegetables.
 - Choose fresh or frozen fish, shellfish, poultry, and meat most often. They are lower in salt than canned and processed ones, like luncheon meats.
 - Have potassium-rich foods, such as fruits and vegetables.
 - Use spices and herbs, rather than salt, to enhance the flavor of food. Leave the salt shaker off the table. Go easy on condiments, such as soy sauce, ketchup, mustard, pickles, and olives.

If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.

This means no more than 1 drink a day for women and persons over age 65; no more than 2 drinks a day for men.

1 Alcoholic Drink = 12 oz. beer (150 calories), 4 to 5 oz. wine (100 calories), or 1 1/4 oz. 80 proof liquor (100 calories).



Example of Healthy Eating for a Day

Breakfast

- 1 fresh orange
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 1 slice wheat toast with 1 tsp. soft margarine or jelly
- 1 cup skim milk or soy milk
- Coffee

Lunch

- Tossed salad with fat-free dressing
- 1 cup chili (with beans)
- 1 slice whole-wheat pita bread
- Fresh banana
- 1 cup plain nonfat yogurt
- Iced tea with lemon

Dinner

- Tossed salad with 1 tsp. olive oil and vinegar
- 3 oz. roast chicken breast
- 1/2 cup green beans
- 1 medium baked potato with nonfat sour cream
- 1 dinner roll with 1 tsp. soft margarine
- 1 cup berries
- Water with a lemon or lime slice

Snack

- 1 cup skim milk or soy milk
- 1 cup unsweetened, whole grain, ready-to-eat cereal

Reviewed and Approved by the Senior Medical Advisory Board



This Permafold® is not meant to take the place of expert medical care or treatment. Follow your doctor's or health care provider's advice.

2. Use MyPyramid.gov – Steps to a Healthier You.

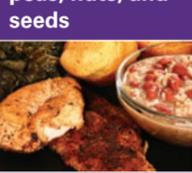
Find out about this at the Web site: www.mypyramid.gov or call 888.7.PYRAMID (779.7264).



At this Web site you will learn:

- How many calories you should eat each day for your gender, weight, and activity level. (Amounts of food to eat from basic food groups, subgroups, and oils are given for 12 different calorie levels.)
- How much to eat from each food group to meet your calorie needs. Serving sizes are given in cups, 1/2 cups, etc.
- How to plan a healthy menu.
- How to keep track of the foods and beverages you eat and drink and the activities you do.
- Information about foods from MyFoodapedia. Find the calories and MyPyramid food groups for food items.

Here is a sample of guidelines for a 55 year old female who weighs 150 pounds and exercises less than 30 minutes a day.

Grains	Vegetables	Fruits	Milk	Meat & Beans
5 ounces / day	2 cups / day	1 1/2 cups / day	3 cups / day	5 ounces / day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make half your grains whole • Aim for at least 3 ounces of whole grains a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vary your veggies • Aim for these amounts each week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dark green veggies = 2 cups – Orange veggies = 1 1/2 cups – Dry beans & peas = 2 1/2 cups – Starchy veggies = 2 1/2 cups – Other veggies = 5 1/2 cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on fruits • Eat a variety of fruits • Go easy on fruit juices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your calcium-rich foods • Go low-fat or fat-free when you choose milk, yogurt, or cheese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go lean with protein • Choose low-fat or lean meats and poultry • Vary your protein routine – choose more fish, beans, peas, nuts, and seeds 

Find your balance between food and physical activity. Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days of the week.

Know your limits on fats, sugars, and sodium. Your allowance for oils is 5 teaspoons a day. Limit extras – solid fats and sugars – to 130 calories a day.

Your results are based on a 1600 calorie pattern. This calorie level is only an estimate of your needs. Monitor your body weight to see if you need to adjust your calorie intake.

3. Read Food Labels

Look at dates on the label. Don't buy food items that are spoiled or will spoil before you use them.

- Read the ingredients. Check for items that you or family members are allergic or sensitive to, such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and wheat.
- Know that ingredients are listed in order from most to least. Avoid or limit foods that list fats and sugar sources first or second.

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 cup (228g) Servings Per Container 2	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 250	Calories from Fat 110
%Daily Value*	
Total Fat 12g	18%
Saturated Fat 3g	15%
Trans Fat 3g	15%
Cholesterol 30mg	10%
Sodium 470mg	20%
Total Carbohydrate 31g	10%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 5g	
Protein 5g	
Vitamin A 4%	Vitamin C 2%
Calcium 20%	Iron 4%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g
Calories per gram: Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4	

Start here. Nutrition Facts are based on the serving size listed.

Check calories per serving.

Limit these nutrients.

Look for foods that give 20% or more % Daily Value for one or more of these nutrients.

% Daily Value tells you whether the nutrient contributes a lot or a little to your total daily diet.

4. Healthy Eating Tips

When you shop for foods, buy whole grains, fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, etc.), nonfat dairy foods, lean meats, etc. Limit high fat, high calorie snack foods.

- Drink 6 to 8 or more glasses of water a day.
- Eat at regular times each day. Don't skip breakfast.
- Eat when you are truly hungry, not as a response to emotions.
- Get recommended grams (gms.) of dietary fiber/day. Males age 50 and younger need 38 gms./day; 30 gms./day if over age 50. Women age 50 and younger need 25 gms./day; 21gms./day if over age 50. Fiber is a type of carbohydrate (from plant foods only) that the body does not digest. Read food labels for dietary fiber content. Increase fiber gradually. Drink plenty of water, too.

Grams of Dietary Fiber in Foods

1 oz. Fiber One cereal	12
1 oz. All-Bran cereal	9
1/2 cup kidney beans	9
1/2 cup baked beans	7
1 oz. Bran Flakes cereal	4
2 slices "lite" wheat bread	4
1 medium baked potato (with skin)	4
1/2 cup cooked frozen peas	4
1 medium banana or 1/2 cup raspberries	3
1/2 cup cooked broccoli or cooked corn	3
1 medium bran muffin	3
1 medium apple with skin	2.8
1/2 cup whole wheat pasta	2.5
1/2 cup cooked green beans	2
1 oz. oatmeal, Cheerios, or Wheaties	2
1/2 cup lentils	2

For Eating Out

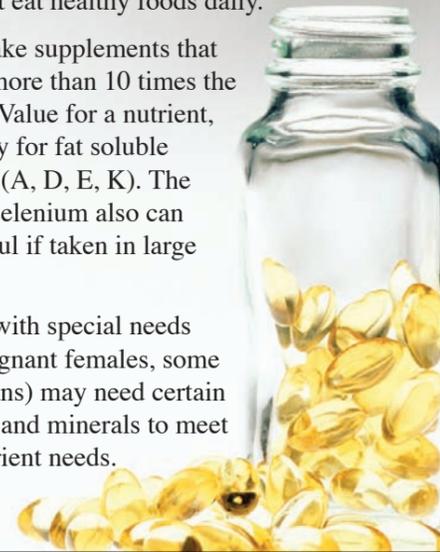
- Choose a restaurant that offers low-fat choices. Order an item from the menu instead of opting for the "all-you-can-eat" buffet.
- Order appetizer or side dish sizes for entrees. Ask for half orders or share an order with another person. When served whole orders, eat half. Take the rest home for another meal.
- Choose baked, roasted, poached, and steamed items. Limit fried items.
- Ask that sauces and salad dressings be served on the side. Use small amounts, if any.
- At fast-food places, order small sandwiches, salads, and low-fat milk or unsweetened drinks. Limit jumbo double decker sandwiches, etc. Don't supersize meals. Go easy on regular salad dressings and fatty sauces.
- Order pizza with lots of vegetables, less meat, and half the cheese.
- When going to a party where many high-fat foods will be served, offer to take a fresh fruit or vegetable dish.

For a Busy Lifestyle

- Take healthy snacks with you. Examples are fresh fruits, bagels, and meal replacement drinks or bars.
- Drink bottled water instead of regular and diet colas and other beverages with caffeine.
- When you cook, prepare enough for 3 or 4 meals. Freeze meals in portions. Reheat as needed.
- For a super quick meal, eat a sandwich, a bowl of vegetable soup, fresh fruit, and drink a glass of skim milk. If you eat out, you can get these at a deli and grocery stores.

For Taking Supplements

- Discuss taking vitamins, minerals, and herbs with your doctor or dietitian. The value of nutrients is in foods, not pills. A standard multi-vitamin-and-mineral supplement can't hurt and might help if you don't eat healthy foods daily.
- Do not take supplements that contain more than 10 times the % Daily Value for a nutrient, especially for fat soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K). The mineral selenium also can be harmful if taken in large amounts.
- Persons with special needs (e.g., pregnant females, some vegetarians) may need certain vitamins and minerals to meet their nutrient needs.



For More Information, Contact:

Food & Drug Administration
www.fda.gov/Food/default.htm

MyPyramid.gov
888.7.PYRAMID (779.7264) • www.mypyramid.gov

Nutrition.Gov
www.nutrition.gov

Office of Dietary Supplements National Institutes of Health
<http://ods.od.nih.gov>

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