

Don't Try Hard, Eat Smart

Top 5 proven keys to boosting health, shedding pounds and feeling awesome

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### Preface



NOT a week goes by that we don't hear rumors about a new diet that claims to have discovered a "magic formula" for successful weight management. Many people willing to try new plans soon discover a whole bunch of restrictions that make such dietary experiments unsustainable - the very reason why dieting is so hard and unsuccessful.

Now, imagine a different approach to achieving a healthy weight. An approach that focuses on your body as a whole. The goal is to help you manage your daily nutrient intake in a way, so your body gets all essential vitamins and minerals required to maintain your cells, tissues and organs. Bottom line is: you achieve a healthy weight by getting your systems in balance, not by starving yourself.

# I. Get All Your Nutrients

A healthy nutritious diet provides the body with all essential nutrients required for your cells, tissues and organs to function properly. Unfortunately, the modern diet is very poor on some essential vitamins and minerals including vitamin D, vitamin E, magnesium and more. According to research, micronutrient deficiencies can lead to various cancers, cardiovascular disease, and other agerelated diseases.



DRI: Males 900 mcg; Females 700 mcg/Pregnant 750 mcg/BF 900 mcg

Vitamin A acts as an antioxidant protecting cells from free radical damage. It is essential for skin growth and repair, formation and maintenance of teeth, bones, soft tissue, white blood cells, the immune system and mucus membranes.



### Vitamin A: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Keeps skin and mucous membrane cells healthy
- Fights cancer and slows down tumor growth
- Helps prevent infectious diseases and vision problems



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Poor vision and dry irritable eyes
- Dry hair, dry mouth and dry and itchy skin
- Fatigue and diarrhea



- Blurred vision, nausea and vomiting
- Headaches, drowsiness changes in alertness or consciousness
- Joint pain or swelling

# Vitamin A: Top Natural Sources



Liver (Veal, Beef, Pork) 3.5 oz: 813% of DV



Carrots 3.5 oz: 104% of DV



**Sweet Potato** 3.5 oz: 89% of DV



**Mustard Greens** 3.5 oz: 77% of DV



**Lambsquarters** 3.5 oz: 73% of DV



**Kale** 3.5 oz: 63% of DV



Spinach 3.5 oz: 59% of DV



**Turnip** 3.5 oz: 48% of DV

### 2. Vitamin B6

DRI: Males 1.3-1.7 mg; Females 1.2-1.5 mg/Pregnant 1.9 mg/BF 2.0 mg

The health benefits of Vitamin B6 are many and include stimulating co-enzymatic activities, protecting the immune system, hormone control and normal metabolism. Vitamin B6 can also help in the prevention and treatment of premenstrual syndrome, emotional disorders, skin conditions, cardiac diseases, kidney disorders, carpal tunnel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, anemia, arthritis and influenza.



### Vitamin B6: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps prevent formation of kidney stones
- Helps cure depression and reduces the risk of heart attack
- Decreases severity and frequency of asthma attacks



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Anemia, headaches and seizures
- Confusion, nausea, dizziness and vomiting
- Muscle pains, dry skin, sore tongue and cracks on mouth



- Nerve disorders
- Headaches and pain, and numbness
- Severe fatigue and difficulty walking

### Vitamin B6: Natural Sources



**Pistachios** 3.5 oz: 131% of DV



Seeds (Sunflower & Sesame) 3.5 oz: 103% of DV



**Garlic** 3.5 oz: 95% of DV



**Drumstick Leaves** 3.5 oz: 92% of DV



**Balsam Pear** 3.5 oz: 48% of DV



**Poultry** 3.5 oz: 46% of DV



**Fish** 3.5 oz: 38% of DV



Red Meat (Beef, Pork & Lamb) 3.5 oz: 29% of DV

# 3. Vitamin B12

DRI: Males 2.4 mcg; Females 2.4 mcg/Pregnant 2.6 mcg/BF 2.8 mcg

Vitamin B12 plays a very important role in human health. It's needed for the DNA synthesis and the formation of new cells including the red blood cells. It also plays a critical role in the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and protein, and is essential for a healthy nervous system.

# Vitamin B12: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps you to get a good night's sleep
- It plays a role in the regulation of the nervous system
- Reduces the risk of depression and stress
- Helps prevent Alzheimer's disease



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Low energy, fatigue, anemia and headaches
- Nerve disorders, depression and mood swings
- Constipation, digestive disorders and palpitations



- Generally not toxic
- Rarely skin irritations and special form of acne
- Occasionally nausea and vomiting as a result of very high dozes

### Vitamin B12: Natural Sources



**Clams** 3.5 oz: 1648% of DV



Liver (Beef, Pork & Lamb) 3.5 oz: 1083% of DV



Octopus 3.5 oz: 510% of DV



Mussels 3.5 oz: 400% of DV



**Liver (Poultry)** 3.5 oz: 281% of DV



Oysters 3.5 oz: 260% of DV



Sockeye Salmon 3.5 oz: 95% of DV



**Crab** 3.5 oz: 55% of DV



DRI: Males 90 mg; Females 75 mg/Pregnant 85 mg/BF 120 mg

Vitamin C is important for the protection of the immune system, and for the prevention of cardiovascular disease, prenatal health problems, eye disease, and even skin wrinkling. Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant that takes part in the biosynthesis of collagen, carnitine and catecholamine.



## Vitamin C: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps prevent cardiovascular diseases
- Protects against immune system deficiencies
- Prevents eye diseases and skin wrinkling



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Swollen and bleeding gums
- Easy bruising, slow wound healing and susceptibility to infections
- Dry and flaky skin



- Generally considered nontoxic
- Headaches, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal problems and diarrhea

### Vitamin C: Natural Sources



3.5 oz: 2796% of DV





Kiwi 3.5 oz: 154% of DV



**Peppers** 3.5 oz: 404% of DV



Broccoli 3.5 oz: 148% of DV



Guava 3.5 oz: 380% of DV



Litchis 3.5 oz: 119% of DV



Kale 3.5 oz: 200% of DV



Cauliflower 3.5 oz: 80% of DV



DRI: Males 90 mcg; Females 75 mcg/Pregnant 15 mcg/BF 15 mcg

Vitamin D is essential for the maintenance of bone mineralization through the regulation of calcium and phosphorus homeostasis. Vitamin D exhibits many non-skeletal effects, particularly on the immune, endocrine and cardiovascular systems.

## Vitamin D: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Fights infections including cold and the flu
- Helps build strong bones and muscle strength
- Lowers the risk of heart failure



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Chronic fatigue and tiredness
- Getting sick or infected often
- Depression, bone and muscle pain, and hair loss



- Buildup of calcium in your blood (hypercalcemia)
- Headaches, nausea and vomiting
- Liver and kidney damage

### Vitamin D: Natural Sources



Sun Exposure
10 min-60 min (mid-day summer)
to produce enough Vit. D



**Mackerel** 3.5 oz: 251% of DV



**Salmon** 3.5 oz: 131% of DV



Sardines 3.5 oz: 48% of DV



**Tuna** 3.5 oz: 45% of DV



Morel Mushrooms 3.5 oz: 34% of DV



**Eggs** 3.5 oz: 21% of DV



**Milk** 3.5 oz: 12% of DV

### 6. Vitamin E

DRI: Males 15 mg; Females 15 mg/Pregnant 15 mg/BF 19 mg

Vitamin E is necessary for structural and functional maintenance and integrity of skeletal, cardiac and smooth muscle. It also assists in the formation of red blood cells and helps to maintain stores of vitamins A and K, iron, and selenium.



## Vitamin E: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps prevent cancer and heart diseases
- Plays a role in preventing strokes and cataracts
- Fights diabetes and Alzheimer's disease



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Muscular weakness, leg cramps and poor balance
- Anemia and weakened immune system
- Vision problems and abnormal eye movement



- Generally non-toxic
- Muscle weakness and fatigue
- Upset stomach and diahrea

## Vitamin E: Top Natural Sources



**Sunflower Seeds** 3.5 oz: 234% of DV



Peanuts 3.5 oz: 44% of DV



Almonds 3.5 oz: 175% of DV



**Brazil Nuts** 3.5 oz: 38% of DV



**Hazelnuts** 3.5 oz: 100% of DV



**Dried Apricots** 3.5 oz: 22% of DV



Pine Nuts 3.5 oz: 62% of DV



**Avocado** 3.5 oz: 14% of DV





### Vitamin K: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps prevent coronary artery disease and heart failure
- Fights Alzheimer's disease
- Helps prevent cancer



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Easy bruising and gum, and nose bleeding
- Anemia, osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease
- Stomach pain and weakness



- Generally non-toxic
- Fatigue or jaundice
- Liver damage and hemolytic anemia in infants

### Vitamin K: Natural Sources



Amaranth 3.5 oz: 1425% of DV



**Mustard Greens** 3.5 oz: 564% of DV



**Dandelion Greens** 3.5 oz: 698% of DV



**Cress** 3.5 oz: 516% of DV



**Kale** 3.5 oz: 671% of DV



Spinach 3.5 oz: 460% of DV



**Beet Greens** 3.5 oz: 605% of DV



**Chard** 3.5 oz: 312% of DV



# 8. Calcium (Ca)

DRI: Males 1000-1200 mg; Females 1000-1200 mg/Pregnant & BF 1000 mg

Calcium is an essential mineral for healthy bones, gums and teeth. It strengthens the backbone and ensures the right shape to the body, as well as helping to alleviate the presence of back pain. It helps to keep the bones in their proper shape and prevents health problems such as arthritis and osteoporosis.

# Calcium: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps you build strong bones
- Helps you keep slim and trim
- Helps prevent cancer



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Muscle cramps, frequent fractures and bone breakage
- Dry itchy skin, tooth decay and brittle nails
- Insomnia, weakness and fatigue



- Generally non-toxic
- Headaches, confusion, depression and arterosclerosis
- Kidney stones, gall stones, slow metabolism, constipation,

### Calcium: Natural Sources



Sesame Seeds 3.5 oz: 97% of DV



Flax seeds 3.5 oz: 26% of DV



**Chia** 3.5 oz: 63% of DV



Collards 3.5 oz: 23% of DV



**Lambsquarters** 3.5 oz: 31% of DV



Amaranth 3.5 oz: 16% of DV



Almonds 3.5 oz: 26% of DV



**Kale** 3.5 oz: 15% of DV

# 9. Copper (Cu)

DRI: Males 900 mcg; Females 900 mcg/Pregnant 1000 mcg/BF 1300 mcg

Copper keeps you looking young! It helps in protecting against graying of the hair, it maintains the color of your eyes and is essential, along with zinc, in keeping your eyes beautifully colored into an old age. Copper is also helpful in the protection of the skeletal, nervous and cardiovascular systems.





#### **Health Benefits**

- Reduces the symptoms of arthritis
- Helps balance blood cholesterol levels
- Essential for normal growth and health; Stimulates the brain



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Anemia, fatigue and tiredness
- Thinning, weak hair and poor skin quality
- Slow growth and inability of the body to produce collagen



- Chronic exposure can damage the liver and kidneys
- Acne, allergies, hair loss, chronic infections
- Anxiety, depression, insomnia and hypertension

## Copper: Natural Sources



Liver (Veal, Beef, Pork) 3.5 oz: 714% of DV



Oysters 3.5 oz: 223% of DV



Seeds (Sesame, Pumpkin) 3.5 oz: 204% of DV



Cashews 3.5 oz: 110% of DV



**Brazil Nuts** 3.5 oz: 87% of DV



Hazelnuts 3.5 oz: 86% of DV



Lobster 3.5 oz: 83% of DV



**Kale** 3.5 oz: 14% of DV

# 10. Iron (Fe)

DRI: Males 8 mg; Females 8-18 mg/Pregnant 27 mg/BF 9 mg

One of the most important health benefits of iron is its role in the formation of hemoglobin. It also plays a key role in strengthening the immune system by making it strong enough to fight off infections. Iron also builds concentration, treats insomnia and regulates body temperature.

# Iron: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Aids in transporting oxygen to the body cells
- A vital element for muscle health
- Important in regulating body temperature and plays a key role in providing strength to the immune system



### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Anemia, chronic fatigue and weakness
- Headaches, dizziness and nervousness
- Thinning hair and cracked lips or tongue



- Vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea
- Palpitations, low blood pressure and rapid breathing
- Fever and seizures

### Iron: Natural Sources



Liver (Beef, Pork, Lamb) 3.5 oz: 177% of DV



**Clams** 3.5 oz: 155% of DV



**Octopus** 3.5 oz: 120% of DV



Seeds (Sesame, Pumpkin) 3.5 oz: 112% of DV



Morel Mushrooms 3.5 oz: 94% of DV



Cattlefish 3.5 oz: 60% of DV



Oysters 3.5 oz: 37% of DV



**Seaweed** 3.5 oz: 28% of DV

# 12. Magnesium (Mg)

DRI: Males 400-420 mg; Females 310-320 mg/Pregnant 360 mg/BF 320 mg

Magnesium supports the existence of a healthy immune system and keeps bones strong. It helps in regulating blood sugar levels and also supports energy metabolism and protein synthesis. It has a positive effect on the treatment of disorders such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes.



### Magnesium: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Helps for the proper digestion proteins, carbohydrates, and fats
- Relaxes the nervous system and helps you sleep better
- Helps you to build bigger and stronger muscles



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Confusion, muscle spasms and palpitations
- Anxiety, depression and insomnia
- Poor appetite, nausia and vomiting



- Upset stomach and diarrhea
- Nausea, drowsiness and vomiting
- Arrhythmia, difficulty breathing and extremely low blood pressure



### Magnesium: Natural Sources



Seeds (Sesame, Pumpkin) 3.5 oz: 155% of DV



Flaxseeds 3.5 oz: 110% of DV



**Brazil Nuts** 3.5 oz: 106% of DV



**Chia** 3.5 oz: 94% of DV



Cashews
3.5 oz: 82% of DV



Almonds 3.5 oz: 75% of DV



Pine Nuts 3.5 oz: 71% of DV



**Soy Nuts** 3.5 oz: 57% of DV

# 13. Manganese (Mn)

DRI: Males 2.3 mg; Females 1.8 mg/Pregnant 2.0 mg/BF 2.6 mg

Manganese is a powerful antioxidant that seeks out the free radicals in the human body and neutralizes them. These free radicals are capable of damaging human cells and causing cancer and other devastating diseases. Manganese helps in controlling the blood sugar levels and may further prevent the occurrence of certain diseases like diabetes.

### Manganese: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Essential for healthy bones
- Controls the level of sugar in the blood
- Helps regulate the body's metabolism



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Weakness, low immunity and frequently getting sick
- Iron-deficiency anemia and high blood sugar levels
- Weak hair, brittle nails and poor skin quality



- Generally non-toxic
- Irritability, aggressiveness, and hallucinations
- Symptoms similar to those of Parkinson's disease including tremors, facial muscle spasms and difficulty walking

### Manganese: Natural Sources



Wheat Bran 3.5 oz: 575% of DV



Hazelnuts 3.5 oz: 309% of DV



**Teff** 3.5 oz: 462% of DV



**Pecans** 3.5 oz: 214% of DV



Pine Nuts 3.5 oz: 419% of DV



**Pumpkin Seeds** 3.5 oz: 214% of DV



**Mussels** 3.5 oz: 340% of DV



Macadamia Nuts 3.5 oz: 195% of DV

# 14. Phosphorus (P)

DRI: Males 700 mg; Females 700 mg/Pregnant 700 mg/BF 700 mg

Phosphorus along with calcium is essential for maintaining bone health. This mineral lays the foundation of a strong skeletal structure to ensure health and functional living. Phosphorus also plays an important role in facilitating effective digestion in the human body. It stimulates the digestion of riboflavin and niacin in an efficient way and directly clears up indigestion.

### Phosphorus: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- A vital part of the body growth process
- Helps provide effective digestion
- Releaves minor health problems like muscle weakness, numbness and fatigue



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Fatigue, muscle weakness and anemia
- Bone pain and poor bone formation, and growth
- Loss of appetite and changes to weight



- Increased risk of cardiovascular disease
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Joint pain, muscle pain, and muscle weakness

### Phosphorus: Natural Sources



**Pumpkin Seeds** 3.5 oz: 168% of DV



**Brazil Nuts** 3.5 oz: 73% of DV



**Chia** 3.5 oz: 123% of DV



**Soy Nuts** 3.5 oz: 65% of DV



Flaxseed 3.5 oz: 92% of DV



Liver (Beef, Pork, Lamb) 3.5 oz: 50% of DV



Pine Nuts 3.5 oz: 82% of DV



**Fish** 3.5 oz: 26% of DV

## 15. Potassium (K)

DRI: Males 4.7 g; Females 4.7 g/Pregnant 4.7 g/BF 5.1 g

Potassium is a mineral and electrolyte that is essential for the muscles to work properly throughout the body, especially the heart. Potassium plays a key role in keeping brain function at a normal level and is of great importance in preventing the occurrence of stroke.



### Potassium: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Plays an important role in the process of keeping brain function normal
- Helps reduce the risk of heart diseases and hypertension
- Helps prevent muscle cramps



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Elevated cholesterol, palpitations and muscle spasms
- Abdominal cramping, bloating and diarrhea
- Depression, confusion and insomnia



- Abnormal heart rhythm and heart failure
- Stomach cramps, diarrhea and vomiting
- Irritability and fatigue.

### Potassium: Natural Sources



**Soy Nuts** 3.5 oz: 39% of DV



Dried Fruit (Apricots, Peaches)
3.5 oz: 33% of DV



**Beet Greens** 3.5 oz: 26% of DV



**Pistachios** 3.5 oz: 22% of DV



**Pumpkin Seeds** 3.5 oz: 17% of DV



**Yam** 3.5 oz: 17% of DV



Flaxseed 3.5 oz: 17% of DV



Bananas 3.5 oz: 8% of DV

### 16. Selenium (Se)

DRI: Males 50 mcg; Females 50 mcg/Pregnant 60 mcg/BF 70 mcg

Selenium boosts the immune system by stimulating antibodies, which can seek out and destroy foreign bodies that can cause diseases and infections. It has been found to be an essential part in the body's response to cancerous activity. Normal selenium intake can result in a serious decrease in cancerous cell formation, especially in regards to prostate, colorectal and lung cancers.

### Selenium: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- Important for the stimulation of antibodies - fights cancer
- A powerful booster of heart health
- Helps the regulation of hormones in the body



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Constant tiredness, fatigue and muscle weakness
- Brain fog, confusion and difficulty concentrating
- Reproductive problems and hypothyroidism



- Fatigue, irritability, upset stomach, nausea and vomiting
- Brittle hair and nails, hair loss and dermatitis
- "Garlic breath", metallic taste in mouth, liver and kidney damage and jaundice

### Selenium: Natural Sources



**Brazil Nuts** 3.5 oz: 2739% of DV



Mussels 3.5 oz: 128% of DV



Octopus 3.5 oz: 128% of DV



Liver (Poultry) 3.5 oz: 118% of DV



**Oysters** 3.5 oz: 91% of DV



Fish 3.5 oz: 67% of DV



Lobster 3.5 oz: 59% of DV



Organ Meat (Veal, Beef, Pork) 3.5 oz: 52% of DV



DRI: Males 11 mg; Females 8 mg/Pregnant 11 mg/BF 12 mg

Zinc is involved in collagen synthesis and can be an effective remedy for curing pimples and acne. Zinc is also very important in dealing with prostate disorders. Its deficiency causes enlargement of the prostate gland, which in turn makes it vulnerable to cancer.

### Zinc: Key Facts



#### **Health Benefits**

- One of the most important nutrients for infants and new mothers
- Plays a leading role in weight loss
- Important for eliminating acne and helps in treating prostate disorders



#### **Deficiency Symptoms**

- Foggy thinking, poor appetite, weight loss, and frequent illness
- Hair loss, hang nails and loss of senses of taste or smell
- Eczema, psoriasis and acne



- Upset stomach, nausea and vomiting
- Fatigue, chills, fever and changes in alertness and coordination
- Weakened immune system and higher risk of infections

### Zinc: Natural Sources



Oysters 3.5 oz: 605% of DV



Seeds (Pumpkin, Sesame) 3.5 oz: 80% of DV



Pine Nuts 3.5 oz: 67% of DV



Red Meat (Beef, Pork, Lamb) 3.5 oz: 66% of DV



Cashews 3.5 oz: 61% of DV



Poultry (Organ Meats) 3.5 oz: 27% of DV



**Crab** 3.5 oz: 24% of DV



**Lobster** 3.5 oz: 20% of DV



# II. Choose Good Fats Over Bad Fats

Not all fats are created equal. Some like mono and polyunsaturated fats can provide many benefits to you whereas others like saturated and trans-unsaturated fats could be detrimental to many aspects of your health.

### **Fats** Overview



#### **Good Fats**

- Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA): These fats are liquid at room temperature and are also known as Omega-9 fatty acids. The most known are oleic acid found in olive oil and erucic acid found in rapeseed (canola oil), wallflower seed, and mustard seed. According to research studies, MUFA offer valuable health benefits protecting against metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease.
- Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA): There are two main types - Omega-3 and Omega-6. PUFA are liquid at room temperature. Various studies have shown that replacement of saturated fatty acids with PUFA, particularly of the omega-3 type, can lead to a lower risk of developing cardio vascular disease (CVD).



#### **Bad Fats**

- Saturated fatty acids (SFA): SFA are solid at room temperature. According to research they raise LDL ("bad") cholesterol, which is a risk factor for developing coronary artery disease and stroke. Studies have shown that saturated fat in the diet, regardless of its type, is associated with an increased risk of heart disease.
- Trans fatty acids: Although occurring naturally in nature, trans fats have been widely produced industrially from vegetable oils through the process of hydrogenation. Trans fats are solid at room temperature and have been consistently associated with a number of health risks including coronary artery disease (CAD), diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's disease, cancer and depression.

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### Meat





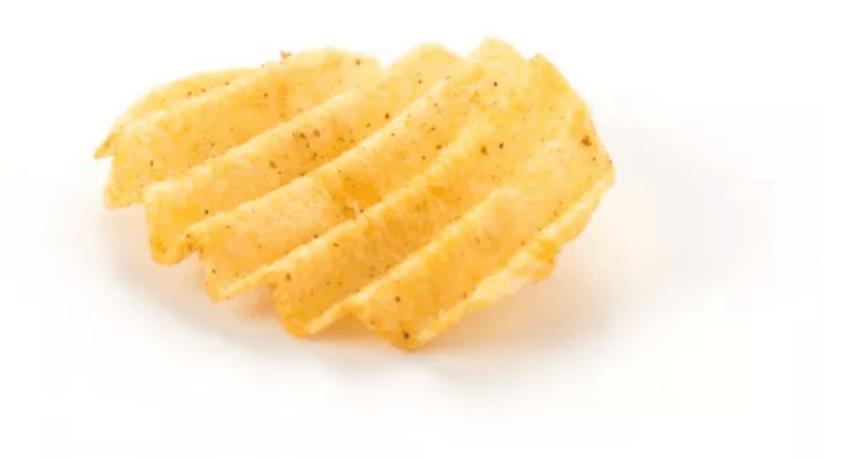
GOOD

Fish: Low in SFA & good source of Omega-3

BAD Red Meat: High SFA content

### Snacks/Desserts





GOOD

Nuts: Low in SFA & rich in MUFA & PUFA

**BAD**Packaged Snack Foods & Desserts:

High trans fat content

# Cooking





GOOD

Olive Oil: Relatively low SFA; Contains good level of MUFA & PUFA

**BAD**Margarine, Butter and Shortening:
High trans fat and SFA content



Consuming foods rich in added sugar can affect your health and weight in many different ways. Refined sugars are not only known to spike your insulin levels making it impossible to burn fat, but also to raise your risk of developing cancer by promoting the growth of cancer cells.



### Top 8 Added Sugar Foods



Soda 1 can/12 fl oz: 9.5 tsp. of sugar



**Ice Tea & Juice** 12 fl oz: 8.3 tsp. of sugar



Candy 1.4 oz: 7.25 tsp. of sugar



Energy drinks 1 can/8.4 fl oz: 6.5 tsp. of sugar



Muffins/Cupcakes 1 muffin: 5.5 tsp. of sugar



Sweetened Cereals
1 cup/1.25 oz: 4 tsp. of sugar



Ice Cream & Frozen Yogurt 1/2 cup/2.3 oz: 3.5 tsp. of sugar



Granola/Energy Bars
1 bar/1.25 oz: 1.5 tsp. of sugar

# IV. Limit Sodium

Sodium is an essential nutrient that helps control your body's fluid balance. High sodium intake can have a negative effect on your heart health. An extra sodium in your bloodstream results in more water being pulled into your blood vessels. This increases the volume of blood inside your blood vessels causing an increase in blood pressure. Uncontrolled blood pressure raises the risk of cardiovascular disease, congestive heart failure and kidney disease.

### Top 8 Sodium Foods



**Salt** 3.5 oz: 1614% of DV



Cheese 3.5 oz: 75% of DV



Instant Soups
3.5 oz: 345% of DV



**Salty Snacks** 3.5 oz: 70% of DV



Salted Nuts 3.5 oz: 110% of DV



Soy Sauce 1 tbsp.: 51% of DV



Cured Meat/Fish 3.5 oz: 91% of DV



**Pickles** 3.5 oz: 50% of DV

# V. Swap Bad Carbs for Good Carbs

When it comes to health, some carbohydrates are better than others. Making smart choices by swapping bad carbs for good carbs can have a positive impact on your health and waistline. A good tool for finding good carbs is the glycemic index (GI), which measures how much a certain food increases the blood sugar levels. Your aim should be to choose foods that fall in the low GI category (55 or less) instead of those in the high GI category (70 and above), and use caution with those that fall in between.

Low GI (up to 55)	Medium GI (56-69)	High GI (70+)
Breads: Multi grain, Stone ground whole wheat, Pumpernickel	Breads: Pita, Rye-flour, Whole meal	Breads: French Baguette, White bread, White rolls, White bagel (plain)
Cereals: All-Bran, Porridge (non instant), Oat bran	Cereals: Muesli, Oatmeal, Shredded wheat	Cereals: Bran flakes, Rice Krispies, Corn flakes
Bakery Products: Pound cake, Vanilla cake	Bakery Products: Danish pastry, Muffin (unsweetened), Cake (angel), Croissant	Bakery Products: Waffles, Doughnuts
Cereal Grains: Pearl barley, Rye, Barley (cracked), Rice (parboiled or instant)	Cereal Grains: Rice (wild, white, brown), Barley flakes, Taco shell	Cereal Grains: Millet, Short-grain rice
Fruit & Vegetables: Cherries, Grapefruit, Grapes, Bananas and most vegetables	Fruit: Mangoes, Apricots, Raisins, Pineapple, Potato (boiled, steamed or mashed), Beetroot	Fruit: Watermelon, Carrots, Dates, Potato (baked, instant), Broad beans



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