

Grocery Shopping Tips

Here are some tips to help make your grocery shopping experience a healthy one.

- Do not shop when you are hungry. Have a snack (or meal) before grocery shopping to prevent impulse buying.
- Plan ahead. Make a grocery list and stick to it. This will help control spending and increase the chance of buying healthy items.
- Shop the perimeter of the store. This is where you will find fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, whole grain breads, and low-fat dairy.



- Read your food labels. This will help you identify healthier options. Remember to look at the calories and serving sizes.
- Try a new food like a unique fruit or vegetable or whole grain.
- Avoid tempting aisles. Generally, these are the inner isles of the grocery store.
- Buy individual serving sizes of snack foods to avoid overeating.
- Shop in the morning when the grocery store is less busy. You will be able to make selections quicker that can decrease the temptation of selecting snack foods while waiting to check out.
- Skip the free samples. Remember extra calories can be slowly consumed bite by bite throughout the day.

The following pages provide helpful suggestions for you to make healthier choices when grocery shopping.

Fruits & Vegetables



Drain and rinse liquid from canned vegetables to reduce sodium

Look for:

- Fresh, frozen, or canned in own juice
- Variety of fruits and vegetables
- Colorful fruits and vegetables, especially dark green and orange

Choose more:

- Fresh, frozen fruits and vegetables
- Canned fruits with low-sugar or light syrup
- Low-sodium or non-sodium canned vegetables

Bread, Muffins, & Rolls



Look for:

- Less than 2 grams of fat per serving
- At least 3 grams fiber per serving
- "Whole" grain or "bran" should be listed as first ingredient on the food label

Choose more:

- Whole wheat, stone ground wheat, whole meal, cracked what or rye flour, or bran
- Low-fat tortillas
- Whole grain tortilla
- Fat-free biscuits
- Whole grain English muffins
- Bagel (size of hockey puck)

Cereal



Beware of flavored instant cereal for their sugar and salt content

Look for:

- Less than 5 grams of sugar per serving
- 3 or more grams of fiber per serving
- 2 grams or less of fat per serving

Choose more:

- Most ready-to-eat cereals except presweetened & granola types
- Cooked cereal regular and quick cooking varieties
- High fiber or bran cereals

Pasta, Rice, & Other Grains



Look for:

• "Whole" grain varieties

Choose more:

- Brown rice and wild rice
- Whole grain pasta

Crackers, Cookies & Snacks



Look for:

- 2 grams or less of fat per serving
- Whole grain
- High fiber items
- 100 Calorie Packs® (to help control portion size)

Choose more:

- **Crackers:** graham, saltine, oyster, bread sticks
- **Cookies:** animal crackers, ginger snaps, fig bars, vanilla wafers
- **Snacks:** popcorn (air-popped, low-fat, or light), pretzels, rice cakes, baked potato chips, baked tortilla chips, high fiber cereal bars

Beware of trans fats and / or partially hydrogenated oils

Cheese



Look for:

- Part or all skim milk cheeses
- Less than 5 grams of fat per ounce
- Low-fat, reduced fat, light, or fat-free cheese

Choose more:

- Low-fat or non-fat cottage cheese
- Part skim mozzarella, ricotta, or farmers cheese
- String cheese

Milk & Yogurt



Look for extra calories from added sugar in yogurt

Look for:

• Low-fat or non-fat products

Choose more:

- Skim or 1% milk
- Low-fat buttermilk
- Evaporated skim milk
- Nonfat dry milk powder
- Low-fat chocolate milk
- Low-fat or fat-free yogurt

Meat, Poultry, Fish, & Meat Substitutes



Look for:

- Leaner cuts with less marbling
- Select or choice grades of meat
- Skinless chicken or turkey breast
- Extra lean ground beef, such as ground round
- 95%-97% fat-free lunch meat or low-fat deli meats
- Less than 3 grams of fat per ounce of processed meat

Choose more:

- Round or loin cuts: top loin, top round, tenderloin
- Fresh or frozen shellfish, without breading
- Canned tuna or salmon packed in water
- Fresh ground turkey meat (white meat) or chicken
- White meat (breast or wing) from poultry
- Poultry without breading (remove skin before eating)
- Egg substitutes and egg whites
- Lentils and beans (navy, pinto), non-fat refried beans
- Soy products such as tofu, tempeh, or edamame

Canned or Frozen Dinner Entrées



Look for:

- No more than 10 grams of fat per serving
- Less than 600 mg sodium
- Aim for less than 500 calories per meal

Choose more:

Dinners that include vegetables and lean meats

Soups



Look for:

- 2 grams of fat or less per serving
- Broth or tomato based soups

Choose more:

- Low fat soups
- Low sodium varieties

Fats, Oils, & Dressing



Beware of trans fats and/or partially hydrogenated oils

Look for:

- Non-stick cooking sprays
- Pump spray butter & salad dressings
- Fat-free or reduced-fat varieties

Choose more:

- Reduced-fat margarine and spreads
- Non-fat or reduced-fat salad dressing
- Non-fat or reduced-fat sour cream
- Olive or canola oils

Desserts



Consume in moderation

Look for:

• Less than 3 grams of fat per 100 calorie serving

Choose more:

- Fruit for dessert
- Sugar-free gelatin
- Sugar-free pudding
- Fat-free pudding

Contact your health provider for more information.