

Food and Nutrition Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Start simple with MyPlate Plan

The benefits of healthy eating add up over time, bite by bite. Small changes matter. Start Simple with MyPlate.

A healthy eating routine is important at every stage of life and can have positive effects that add up over time. It's important to eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy or fortified soy alternatives. When deciding what to eat or drink, choose options that are full of nutrients. Make every bite count.

Fruits Vegetables Grains Protein Dairy

Food Group Amounts for 1,800 Calories a Day for Ages 14+ Years

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1½ cups	2½ cups	6 ounces	5 ounces	3 cups
Focus on whole fruits Focus on whole fruits that are fresh, frozen, canned, or dried.	Vary your veggies Choose a variety of colorful fresh, frozen, and canned vegetables—make sure to include dark green, red, and orange choices.	Make half your grains whole grains Find whole-grain foods by reading the Nutrition Facts label and ingredients list.	Vary your protein routine Mix up your protein foods to include seafood; beans, peas, and lentils; unsalted nuts and seeds; soy products; eggs; and lean meats and poultry.	Move to low-fat or fat-free dairy milk or yogurt (or lactose-free dairy or fortified soy versions) Look for ways to include dairy or fortified soy alternatives at meals and snacks throughout the day.



Choose foods and beverages with less added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Limit:

- Added sugars to less than 45 grams a day.
- Saturated fat to less than 20 grams a day.
- Sodium to less than 2,300 milligrams a day.



Be active your way:

Children 6 to 17 years old should move 60 minutes every day. Adults should be physically active at least 2½ hours per week.

MyPlate Plan

Write down the foods you ate today and track your small changes, bite by bite.



