

Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Patient Education

DIET AND NUTRITION

Potassium-Restricted Diet

Talk with
your dietitian
or another
healthcare
provider if you
have questions
about your diet.

The foods you eat are an important part of managing your health. Some health conditions can be made worse if you eat foods with too much potassium in them. Your healthcare provider has let you know that you need to limit the amount of potassium you eat. This guide will help you choose the right types and amounts of foods.

Low-potassium foods have less than 100 milligrams (mg) per serving.

Medium-potassium foods have 100 to 200 mg per serving.

High-potassium foods have more than 200 mg per serving.

Serving sizes

Knowing how much of a food is a serving will help you learn how much potassium is in it. Several servings of a low-potassium food can make it a high-potassium choice.

The Nutrition Facts label on packaged foods (see the last page) is a great way to find serving sizes. You can also use these size comparisons to help you estimate about how much of a food you are eating.

- 1 ounce = 4 dice
- 3 ounces = a deck of cards
- 1 teaspoon (tsp.) = 1 die
- 2 tablespoons (Tbsp.) = a ping pong ball
- 1 cup = a baseball
- 1/2 cup = 1/2 baseball
- 1/4 cup = 1 large egg

Potassium in common foods

The tables on the next few pages list many common foods that have high, medium and low amounts of potassium. Please note:

- The whole fruit listed is fresh (raw).
- Some vegetables, such as spinach, "shrink" when they are cooked. The cooked vegetable will have much more potassium than the same amount of raw vegetable.
- White rice, pasta, bread, and other foods made with white or corn flour may be lower in potassium. Brown rice, whole-grain bread, and other foods made with whole-wheat flour, oats, and bran are usually higher.
- Foods that are high in protein may also be high in potassium. This includes some types of dried beans, dairy foods, meat, fish and poultry.
- The milligrams of potassium in a food may vary depending on the brand or type of processing. Values for canned foods may be different than values for fresh foods.

			Fruit and Juice					
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg
Applesauce	1/2 cup	90	Apple juice	1/2 cup	125	Banana, medium	1	420
Apricot	1	90	Apple, medium	1	195	Cantaloupe	1/2 cup	210
Blueberries	1/2 cup	55	Apricot nectar	1/2 cup	145	Dates or figs, dried	1/4 cup	250
Coconut, dried or raw	1/4 cup	75	Blackberries	1/2 cup	115	Kiwi	1	215
Cranberries, raw or dried	1/4 cup	40	Cherries, sweet	1/2 cup	150	Nectarine	1	285
Cranberry juice cocktail	1/2 cup	20	Grape juice	1/2 cup	130	Orange	1	235
Fruit cocktail, drained	1/2 cup	95	Grapefruit	1/2	175	Orange juice	1/2 cup	250
Lemon or lime juice,	juice from	50	Grapefruit juice	1/2 cup	200	Peach	1	285
freshly squeezed	1 fruit		Grapes, red or green	1/2 cup	145	Pear	1	205
Mango nectar	1/2 cup	30	Honeydew melon	1/2 cup	195	Pomegranate arils		
Papaya nectar	1/2 cup	40	Mango, pieces	1/2 cup	140	(seed/juice sacs)	1/2 cup	205
Pears, canned, drained	1/2 cup	30	Papaya, chopped	1/2 cup	130	Pomegranate juice	1/2 cup	355
Pear nectar	1/2 cup	15	Peaches, canned, drained	1/2 cup	105	Prune juice	1/2 cup	355
Raspberries	1/2 cup	95	Pineapple juice	1/2 cup	160	Prunes	1/4 cup	350
Watermelon, diced	1/2 cup	85	Pineapple, raw or canned,	1/2 cup	125	Raisins	1/4 cup	310
			chunks	-				
			Plum	1	105			
			Strawberries, sliced	1/2 cup	125			
			Tangerine	1	145			
			(Mandarin orange)					

			Vegetables (Not Starchy)	and Salad	ds			
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg
Beans, green, cooked	1/2 cup	90	Asparagus, cooked, small	4	135	Artichokes, globe or	1/2 cup	240
Cauliflower, cooked	1/2 cup	90	spears			French, cooked		
Celery, raw, small stalk	1	45	Bean sprouts, cooked or	1/2 cup	170	Avocado, sliced	1/2 cup	355
Cucumber, sliced	1/2 cup	75	raw			Beets, cooked, sliced	1/2 cup	260
Eggplant, 1-inch cubes,	1/2 cup	60	Beets, canned, slices	1/2 cup	125	Broccoli, cooked	1/2 cup	245
cooked			Broccoli, flowerets, raw	1/2 cup	115	Brussels sprouts,	1/2 cup	245
Kale, raw, chopped	1 cup	80	Cabbage, cooked	1/2 cup	145	cooked		
Lettuce, red or green	1 cup	50-80	Carrots, raw, small	1	160	Kale, cooked	1/2 cup	295
leaf, shredded			Carrots, slices, cooked	1/2 cup	185	Mushrooms, white,	1/2 cup	215
Onion, raw, chopped	1/4 cup	55	Cauliflower, raw	1/2 cup	160	stir-fried, sliced		
Peas, sugar, snap	1/2 cup	85	Collard greens, cooked	1/2 cup	110	Spinach, cooked	1/2 cup	285
		•	Lettuce (iceberg, Romaine,	1 cup	100-	Swiss chard, cooked	1/2 cup	480
			bibb, butter, endive)		155	Tomato juice	1/2 cup	265
			Mushrooms, white, raw,	1/2 cup	110	Tomato sauce	1/2 cup	365
			sliced			Tomatoes, raw,	1/2 cup	215
			Okra, cooked	1/2 cup	110	chopped or sliced		
			Peppers, green, raw,	1/2 cup	130	Tomatoes, canned	1/2 cup	230
			chopped			Zucchini, cooked,	1/2 cup	240
			Rhubarb, cooked	1/2 cup	115	sliced, diced, chopped		
			Spinach, raw	1 cup	165			
			Zucchini, raw, sliced, diced, chopped	1/2 cup	160			

	Vegetables (Starchy)										
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg			
Peas, frozen, cooked	1/2 cup	90	Corn	1/2 cup	160	Potato, baked, with skin, medium	1	925			
			Corn, small ear	1	195	Potato, boiled, peeled, medium	1	550			
						Potatoes, French fries, medium serving (fast food)	1	675			
						Potatoes, mashed with milk and margarine	1/2 cup	340			
						Pumpkin, canned	1/2 cup	250			
						Squash, winter, baked, cubed	1/2 cup	245			
						Sweet potato, baked, mashed	1/2 cup	475			

	Breads, Cereals and Grains									
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg		
Bagel, medium, plain	1	90	Cheerios®	1 cup	180	Bran muffin, small	1	335		
Bread, white	1 slice	35	Granola (low-fat, natural	1/2 cup	180	Quinoa, cooked	1 cup	320		
Bread, whole wheat	1 slice	80	with raisins, Quaker®)			Raisin bran	1 cup	380		
Cereal (corn flakes, Corn	1 cup	20-60	Oatmeal, cooked	1 cup	155	Wheat germ,	1 ounce	270		
Chex™, Rice Krispies®)			Pasta, cooked whole wheat	1 cup	105	toasted, plain				
Cereal (Cream of Wheat®,	1 cup	50	(macaroni, penne, farfalle,							
farina), cooked			rotini, shells)							
English muffin	1	75	Rice, brown or wild, cooked	1 cup	175					
Grits, cooked	1 cup	55								
Pasta (penne, farfalle,	1 cup	55								
rotini, shells, macaroni,										
spaghetti), cooked										
Rice, white, cooked	1 cup	55								
Tortilla, corn or flour, 6-inch	1	40								

	Protein: Dairy and Non-Dairy Milk Products										
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg			
Almond milk, unenriched	1/2 cup	90	Buttermilk	1/2 cup	165	Milk (chocolate)	1/2 cup	210			
Cheese (cheddar, Swiss,	1 ounce	20-55	Cheese (cottage or ricotta)	1/2 cup	135	Yogurt, non-fat	1/2 cup	240			
provolone, mozzarella)			Milk (whole, 2%, skim)	1/2 cup 125-		with fruit					
Cheese, parmesan, grated	2 Tbsp.	20			170	Yogurt, plain, skim	1/2 cup	310			
Cream cheese	1 ounce	35	Milk, sweetened condensed	1 ounce	140	milk					
Cream or non-dairy liquid	2 Tbsp.	35	Soy milk	1/2 cup	150						
creamer											
Cream, non-dairy	1 tsp.	15									
powdered											
Milk, evaporated	1 ounce	95									
Rice milk, unenriched	1/2 cup	30									
Sour cream	2 Tbsp.	30									

	Protein: Beans, Legumes, Nuts and Seeds									
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg		
Hummus	2 Tbsp.	70	Nuts (macadamia, pecans, walnuts)	1/4 cup	120	Beans (white, navy, lima, lentils, soybeans)	1/2 cup	355- 500		
			Nuts (cashews, hazelnuts)	1/4 cup	195	Nuts (Brazil, mixed nuts, peanuts,	1/4 cup	210-		
			Peanut butter, smooth	2 Tbsp.	180	almonds)		260		
			Tofu, firm	1 ounce	165	Pistachio nuts	1/4 cup	315		
						Seeds (pumpkin, sunflower)	1 ounce	250		
						Soybeans, boiled	1/2 cup	445		
						Veggie or soy burger patty	3 ounces	280		

	Protein: Meat, Poultry and Fish									
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg		
Crab, imitation	3 ounces	75	Clam, small	3	180	Beef, roast or ground,	3 ounces	280		
Egg, large	1	65	Crab, dungeness	3 ounces	150	85% lean				
Oyster, medium	1	15-85	Egg whites, large	2	110	Chicken, light or dark	3 ounces			
Sardine, small	1	50	Beef hot dog	1	120	meat		230		
Shrimp, large	1	35	Lobster	3 ounces	195	Cod	3 ounces			
		•	Orange roughy	3 ounces	154	Crab, king	3 ounces			
			Perch	3 ounces	190	Fish (haddock, tilapia)	3 ounces			
			Tuna, light, canned, drained	3 ounces	150	/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	2	330		
						Fish (swordfish, walleye, snapper, halibut, tuna)	3 ounces	425- 450		
						Liver (beef, chicken)	3 ounces			
						Liver (beer, chickeri)	5 Ourices	305		
						Pollock	3 ounces	390		
						Pork (chops or	3 ounces	280-		
						tenderloin)		360		
						Salmon	3 ounces	375		
						Turkey, light or dark meat	3 ounces	210		
						Veal	3 ounces	275		

		Oth	Other (Beverages, Sweets, Snacks and Spices)								
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg			
Beverages			Beverages			Beverage					
Coffee, instant	1 tsp.	35	Beer, regular	12 ounces	100	Coconut water	1/2 cup	240			
Cola-type beverages	12 ounces	20	Coffee, black, brewed	1 cup	115						
Non-cola beverages, all	12 ounces	5		(8 ounces)							
types (such as Sprite®,			Wine, red	5 ounces	190						
root beer)			Wine, white, table	5 ounces	105						
Tea, black	1 cup (8 ounces)	90									
Tea, herbal	1 cup (8 ounces)	20									
Sweets/Snacks	,		Sweets/Snacks	Sweets/Snacks							
Brownie (2-inch square)	1 square	40-85	Candy bar, milk chocolate	1 ounce	105	Potato chips	1 ounce	340			
Candy, caramels	1 piece	20	Candy bar, dark chocolate	1 ounce	180	Pudding, chocolate,	1/2 cup	210			
Candy (hard, jelly beans)	10 pieces	10	Nutella®	2 Tbsp.	150	ready-to-eat					
Candy bar, white	1 ounce	85	Ice cream, soft serve, frozer	1/2 cup	150	Other					
chocolate			yogurt (chocolate, vanilla)			Molasses	1 Tbsp.	295			
Cookie medium (chocolate chip, sugar)	1	200	Pretzel twists	10	134	Salt substitute	1/4 tsp.	690			
Gelatin/Jell-O®	1/2 cup	1									
Popsicle, fruit and juice bar	1	45									
Popcorn, regular or microwave	1 cup	25									

Other (Beverages, Sweets, Snacks and Spices)									
Low	Amount	mg	Medium	Amount	mg	High	Amount	mg	
Sweets/Snacks									
Pudding, vanilla, ready-to-eat, refrigerated	1/2 cup	75							
Sherbet	1/2 cup	70							
Whipped topping, frozen, fat-free	1 cup	75							
Other									
Mrs. Dash® seasoning	1/4 tsp.	10							
Oil, vegetable types	any	0							
Butter or margarine	1 Tbsp.	5							

(Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. FoodData Central. Standard Reference Legacy database. Updated April 2018. fdc.nal.usda.gov.)

Nutrition Facts labels

Nutrition Facts labels are required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on most packaged foods and beverages. The FDA introduced a new label format in 2018. You will see one of these two versions of the label on the products you purchase. Food labels are a way to see the amount of calories and key nutrients in the packaged foods you buy.

When checking food labels, always consider the serving size. You may need to adjust your portion size (how much of a food you eat) to match the serving size to stay within your recommended potassium limit.

Serving sizes on food labels may be different than those listed in this guide.

Talk with your dietitian if you have questions about:

- What foods you should or should not eat
- Recommended serving sizes
- How best to prepare foods

SIDE-BY-SIDE LABEL COMPARISON

Original

trition Facts

Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g) Servings Per Container About 8

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 230	Calories from Fat 72
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 8g	12%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydra	te 37g 12%
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%
Sugars 1g	
Protein 3g	
) (1) (1) (1)	100/
Vitamin A	10%
Vitamin C	8%
Calcium	20%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs. Calories: 2,000 2,500

Iron

Dietary Fiber		25g	30g
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
lotal Fat	Less than	65g	80g

New

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container

Serving size 2/3 cup (55g)

Amount per serving Calories

230

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol Omg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%

Protein 3g

 Vitamin D 2mcg
 10%

 Calcium 260mg
 20%

 Iron 8mg
 45%

 Potassium 235mg
 6%

In 2018, the FDA required potassium to appear on the label (see "New" label). This is to make it easier for you to know how much potassium is in the food you are eating. Most manufacturers are using this version of the label. Some manufacturers have until July 2021 to switch to this label.

45%

Note: These Nutrition Facts labels are meant to show how the new label compares with the original label. Both represent products that are not real.

The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.