

# Eat Right

Food, Nutrition and Health Tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



## Personalizing Your Plate To Include Foods from Other Cultures – Chinese Cuisine

The foods we eat are often influenced by our family's history and culture. They're also influenced by where we live, our budgets, and our tastes. Many cuisines feature dishes which include a variety of foods from all of the food groups.

Fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. The combination of foods and amounts will depend on you.

### Personalize Your Plate

by including foods that you prefer from each food group. Including a variety of foods can help you get all of the nutrients that are needed for good health.

These tips can help you get started:

- **Fill half your plate with fruits and veggies.** Get creative with produce by trying an assortment of colors and textures.
- **Experiment with different grains.** Try substituting whole grains for refined grains in recipes.
- **Choose lean protein foods.** Vary your choices to include seafood, beans, peas and lentils, as well as eggs, lean cuts of meat and poultry that are prepared in a healthful way, such as baked or grilled instead of fried.
- **Complete your meal with dairy.** Include low-fat or fat-free options like milk, yogurt, cheese, calcium-fortified soymilk, or lactose-free milk

A healthful eating style can be as unique as you!



## Meal Planning Tips

Eating healthy doesn't have to be complicated or boring. Think about the foods you like from each food group – mixed dishes count, too!

These are just a few examples of how different foods can be eaten as a meal to personalize your plate. If a food you enjoy is not listed here, consider which food group it meets when planning your meals.

### Breakfast:

- Congee (rice porridge, often served with fish, chicken, peanuts or egg), with soymilk and an orange
- Bitter melon with eggs, mantou (steamed bun), and soymilk
- Zha jiang mian (noodles with soybean paste and ground pork) with steamed vegetables
- Mapo tofu (spicy tofu in a chili bean sauce, may be mixed with meat) with steamed brown rice and choy sum

### Lunch or Dinner:

- Da pan ji (chicken stew with potatoes, ginger, and garlic) made with extra bell peppers and carrot, served over whole grain noodles
- Baozi (steamed bun with fillings) with snow peas and fresh dragon fruit
- Douban fish (fish in chili bean paste sauce) with steamed brown rice, and sautéed cabbage
- Vermicelli noodles with mushrooms, stir fried bean sprouts, and fresh fruit
- Wonton soup with water spinach and lotus root, and a persimmon
- Char siu (barbecued pork) with stir fried bok choy and brown rice, with kumquats and soymilk

### Snacks:

- Sweet red bean soup
- Soymilk and fresh fruit

### Consider your nutrient needs when planning your meals and snacks!

If you have special nutrition needs, consult a registered dietitian nutritionist. An RDN can create a customized eating plan that is unique to you.

---

**For a referral to a registered dietitian nutritionist and for additional food and nutrition information, visit [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).**

## Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy.

This tip sheet is provided by:

Deidre Wagster  
Asst. Health & Human Science Educator



---

Authored by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics staff registered dietitian nutritionists.

©Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Reproduction of this tip sheet is permitted for educational purposes. Reproduction for sales purposes is not authorized.