

SUGAR, FATS AND OILS

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WHAT TO CHOOSE





As a clinical nutritionist, I understand that fats, oils, and sugars play a crucial role in our overall health and well-being. However, not all fats, oils, and sugars are created equal. Some are beneficial to our body, while others can contribute to chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. This manual provides a comprehensive guide to the types of fats, oils, and sugars you can incorporate into your diet for optimal health, as well as those you should avoid. By understanding the differences between healthy and unhealthy fats, oils, and sugars, you can make informed choices to enhance your energy, support heart health, and maintain a balanced weight. Whether you're planning meals or looking to improve your eating habits, this manual is an invaluable reference to help you navigate your choices and empower you to live a healthier life. Keep it handy for practical and easy-to-follow guidance on a daily basis.

OILS

Good oils, such as olive oil, avocado oil, and coconut oil, are rich in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, which are essential for maintaining heart health, reducing inflammation, and supporting brain function. These healthy oils provide vital nutrients like omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, which are crucial for cellular repair, hormone regulation, and immune function. Additionally, these oils help absorb fatsoluble vitamins such as vitamins A, D, E, and K.

Incorporating healthy oils into your daily diet is simple and versatile. You can use olive oil for salad dressings, drizzle it over roasted vegetables, or add it to pasta dishes. Avocado oil is excellent for high-heat cooking like sautéing and grilling. Coconut oil can be used in smoothies, baking, or cooking stir-fries. By replacing unhealthy oils like trans fats or saturated fats with these healthier options, you can make a significant positive impact on your overall health without sacrificing flavor or convenience.

INCLUDE

Avocado and Avocado oil Flaxseed (linseed) oil Butter Macadamia oil

Extra virgin olive oil Nuts and seeds

Nut butters

Hemp oil

MCT oil

Pumpkin seed oil

LIMIT

Sunflower oil

Canoila oil

Peanut oil

Rapeseed oil

Soybean oil

Corn oil

Margarine

or butter substitutes

Palm oil

Cottonseed oil

Incorporating these oils into your diet can offer a range of health benefits, including improved heart health, reduced inflammation, and better brain function.

These oils are often highly refined, processed with chemicals, or contain trans fats, all of which can negatively affect your health by raising bad cholesterol, increasing inflammation, and increasing the risk of chronic diseases. It's best to limit these oils and focus on healthier, less processed options.

FATS

Fats have long been associated with health risks, particularly when consumed in excess or in unhealthy forms. Saturated fats and trans fats, found in foods like processed meats, fried foods, and baked goods, can contribute to elevated cholesterol levels, leading to an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular problems. These fats can also promote inflammation in the body, disrupt hormone balance, and contribute to obesity by increasing fat storage. When consumed regularly, unhealthy fats can impair the body's ability to properly regulate blood sugar, further increasing the risk of metabolic disorders.

On the other hand, good fats, such as those found in avocados, olive oil, nuts, and fatty fish, provide numerous health benefits. These healthy fats are rich in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, including omega-3 fatty acids, which support heart health by reducing bad cholesterol (LDL) and increasing good cholesterol (HDL). They also help lower inflammation, support brain function, and contribute to better joint and skin health. Additionally, healthy fats are essential for the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K) and play a crucial role in hormone production and cellular repair.

Incorporating good fats into your diet—such as through avocados, olive oil, and fatty fish—can help improve overall health and protect against chronic diseases, while promoting satiety and maintaining a balanced, nutritious diet.

limit
fatty cuts off red meat
lard
processed meats (pork, bacon, sausage,
deli meats)
baked goods
fried goods



avoid margarine / shortening processed snacks

aim for including the oils above and include Omega 3 fatty acids (like fish), polyunsaturate and monounsaturated as these are benefical for healthy heart and brain function, and overall general health

SUGAR

Sugar, especially in its refined form, can be harmful to health when consumed in excess. High sugar intake is linked to numerous health issues, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and tooth decay. When consumed in large amounts, sugar leads to spikes in blood glucose levels, contributing to insulin resistance over time. This can result in increased fat storage, particularly around the abdomen, and heightens the risk of chronic conditions. Moreover, excessive sugar consumption can contribute to inflammation in the body, which plays a role in various diseases, including arthritis and cardiovascular issues.

However, sugar can offer benefits when consumed in moderation. Natural sugars, such as those found in fruits (fructose) and dairy (lactose), come with essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and fiber. These provide a healthy source of energy and support bodily functions, including immune health and metabolism. The key to benefiting from sugar lies in choosing natural sources and keeping intake within a balanced, controlled range.

Incorporating fruits, whole grains, and other nutrient-dense sources of natural sugar into your diet can satisfy cravings while nourishing the body with essential nutrients, without the negative effects associated with refined sugar.





SUGAR NAMES...

Agave nectar Aspartame Barbados sugar barley malt barley malt syrup beet sugar brown sugar butter syrup cane juice crystal cane juice cane sugar caramel carob castor sugar coconut palm coconut sugar confectioner sugar corn sweetener corn syrup / solid date sugar dehydrated cane juice demerara sugar dextrin dextrose evaportated cane juice fine brown sugar fructose fruit juice / concentrate glucose glucose solids golden syrup

grape sugar

galactose high fructose corn syrup honey icing sugar invert sugar isomalt lactose malt syrup maltodextrin maltitol maltose mannose maple syrup molasses muscovado palm sugar panocha powdered sugar refined syrup rice syrup saccharose saccharin sorghum syrup sucrose sucralose sucanat sugar sweet sorghum syrup treacle turbinado sugar yacon syrup yellow sugar

xylitol

SUGAR

all information provided by Naomi Mellor, BHSc Clinical Nutrition is a guide only

Every individual is unique and tailoring health, meal and dietary plans are best conducted in a professional consultation.

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