Common Food Additives

| | FOUND IN | SOURCE | NOTES |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| artificial coloring (Red 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 1, etc) | candies, drinks, condiments, pickles, yogurt, fresh citrus | petroleum | tricks brain to think food has nutrients; known carcinogens; can trigger allergies & hyperactivity |
| artif. sweeteners (sucralose, aspertame, saccharin, acesulfame) | "sugar-free" products, gum, drinks | chemically produced | most reported negative side-effects of all food additives; promote weight gain & blood sugar issues |
| high fructose corn syrup | baked goods, bread, drinks, candies, ice cream, syrup | corn | a cheap/ideal form of sugar for food production; promotes weight gain, blood sugar issues, & inflammation |
| hydrogenated oils (aka trans fat) | baked goods, crackers, chips, margarine | chemically produced | promote inflammation, cardiovascular issues, weight gain, & blood sugar issues |
| MSG (monosodium glutamate) | processed & restaurant food, canned soup, Asian food | fermented sugar | enhances umami flavor; can trigger nervous system symptoms (migraines, numbness) |
| carrageenan | dairy & gluten free products, nut milks | red seaweed | thicken & blend food products; appears to promote inflammation, gut issues, & glucose intolerance |
| processed oils (canola, corn, soy, vegetable, etc) | baked goods, dressings, processed & restaurant food | processed from grains & seeds | often rancid from heating & bleaching during production; promote inflammation & cardiovascular issues |
| sodium benzoate | carbonated drinks, juices, condiments, dressings | chemically produced | can trigger hyperactivity; with citric/ascorbic acid it converts to carcinogenic benzene |
| sodium nitrite | processed meat | chemically produced | antioxidant to prevent bacterial growth & retain pink color in meat; converts to carcinogenic nitrosamine |
| sugar alcohols (xylitol, erythritol, sorbitol, anything that ends in -itol) | "sugar-free" products, gum, drinks | processed plant sugars | promote cravings & blood sugar issues; can cause digestive issues in large amounts |
| citric acid | sweetened drinks, candy, jelly, ice cream, canned fruit | Aspergillus niger (black mold) | flavor & preserve food products; can be inflammatory for some people sensitive to mold |
| food starch (cornstarch, maltodextrin, corn syrup solids, etc) | baked goods, processed food, dairy & gluten free products | corn, potato, tapioca, wheat | blend & thicken food products; GF unless indicated as wheat starch; can be allergenic for some people |
| gums (guar, xanthan, gellan, tara, carob, etc) | dairy & gluten free products, nut milks | soy, corn, wheat; legumes | thicken, blend, & bind food products; feed gut microbes (for better or worse, depending on person) |
| lecithin | chocolate, ice cream, baked goods, supplements | soy, sunflower, canola, egg | blends food products; aka as phosphatidylcholine supplement; minimally allergenic if from soy |
| yeast extract | cheese products, salty foods, canned soup | yeast | enhances umami flavor; often used in place of MSG; often found in small amounts |
| signific redu | | te concern, en possible | minimal concern, some may need to reduce |