

Eat Right

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



Personalizing Your Plate To Include Foods from Other Cultures – Vietnamese 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:

- Phở Gà (chicken soup with rice noodles) topped with fresh herbs, green onions and bean sprouts; served with fresh fruit on the side
- Cháo Gà (chicken rice porridge) with a side of pickled vegetables and soy milk
- Cà Ri Gà (chicken curry), brown rice, grilled eggplant, and a side of fruit
- Bún Riêu Cua (crab and tomato noodle soup) with stir-fried mung bean sprouts and other vegetables
- Cá Chưng (steamed fish with mushrooms, scallions and cellophane noodles)

Lunch or Dinner:

- Bánh Mì (sandwich with marinated meat or tofu and vegetables) and a smoothie made with fruit and milk or soymilk
- Hủ Tiếu Hải Sản (shrimp and vegetable soup and noodles) and a side salad with tofu and a variety of vegetables like lotus root, cucumber, and tomatoes

Snacks:

- Soymilk and fresh fruit
- Gỏi Cuốn (spring rolls) filled with fresh vegetables

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.



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.

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