

UVA Nutrition



Low Fiber Diet

Fiber is the undigested part of plants that passes through the intestines and contributes to the amount of stool.

If you have been told to follow a low fiber diet, look for foods with less than 3 grams of fiber per serving.

Recommended Foods	Foods to Avoid
Breads and Grains	
Enriched white bread, toast, rolls, cornbread, biscuits, muffins, crackers, pancakes, and waffles.	Any bread product that lists whole grain flour or graham flour as the first ingredient
	100% whole wheat bread
Look for "enriched" flour as the first ingredient listed.	Breads made with bran, nuts, seeds (including ground flaxseed), cracked grains, coconut, or dried fruit
Refined, ready-to-eat cereals such as puffed rice and puffed wheat (e.g., Rice Krispies®, Cornflakes®)	Bran or whole grain cereals, such as Fiber One® or store brand equivalent.
Hot cereal made from refined wheat,	Oatmeal, oat bran, granola
corn, or rice (e.g., Cream of Wheat, grits)	Cereal with seeds, nuts, coconut, or dried fruit.
White rice, white pasta, macaroni, egg noodles, couscous	Brown rice, wild rice; farro; quinoa; kasha (buckwheat) barley
	Whole wheat pasta
Fruits	
Canned or cooked fruits, fruit cocktail, canned or jar applesauce	Apples, pears, bananas, all berries, and other raw fruits except as noted in allowed column.
Peeled (no skin) apricots, peaches, plums, or nectarines	Dried fruits.
Clementines (up to 2 per day)	
Fruit juice (strained without pulp)	Blended smoothies made from whole fruits (e.g. Naked®, Odwalla®, or others made from whole fruit).

Recommended Foods	Foods to Avoid
Vegetables Vegetables	
You can eat up to ½ cup per meal of many cooked vegetables, including green beans, carrots, beets, spinach, kale, lettuce, Brussels sprouts, tomato	Sweet potato with or without skin, white potato with or without skin. Pumpkin, winter squash Any vegetable or vegetable dish containing seeds, stems, or skins
Eat no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of these at a meal, and no more than $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ cups per day	Servings of any vegetable larger than ½ cup, or multiple servings of vegetables at the same meal
Dairy	
All dairy and non-dairy (plant-based) alternatives are allowed except products with added or blended fruit or nuts. Check nutrition label for total fiber content.	Yogurt, smoothies, and ice cream containing fruit, seeds, or nuts in excess of 3 grams. Check nutrition label for fiber content.
Protein Foods	
All meats, fish, poultry and eggs	Legumes, peas, or any beans such as black, refried, pinto, kidney, lima, lentils.
Tofu	Edamame, soy nuts, tempeh
Up to 2 tablespoons of smooth peanut butter or sunflower butter	Chunky peanut butter Smooth peanut butter in servings larger than 2 tablespoons.
	Tree nuts (such as pecans, walnuts, almonds, cashews) or nut butters from these nuts
Fats and Snacks	
Margarine, butter, vegetable oils, mayonnaise, cream, gravies, most salad dressings, olives, avocados.	
Chocolate, pudding, cakes, cookies, pretzels, saltines crackers	Snacks made with whole-grain flour, bran (for example, bran muffins, granola bars, fiber bars). Snacks or desserts made with seeds, nuts, coconut, dried fruit.

Fluids

A low-fiber diet may cause fewer bowel movements and smaller stools. You may need to drink more fluids to help prevent constipation. Drink plenty of water or other fluid unless your doctor has told you otherwise.