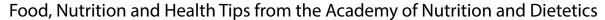
# **Eat Right**





## Smart Tips to Build a Healthy Salad

Pack more nutrition into your day with a colorful, nutrient-dense salad. Keep basic ingredients on hand at home for a quick addition to any meal. Encourage kids to eat more vegetables by setting out ingredients to make their own salad creations.

Whether you're at home or find yourself at a salad bar while dining out, mix and match ingredients to explore new combinations. Assemble your salad by selecting one or more ingredient from the groups listed below. The number of items chosen and the amounts may vary, depending on whether the salad is eaten as the main dish or a side dish to go with a meal.

Consider flavor, texture and color. Add a small amount of salad dressing and enjoy!

## Step One: Build Your Base

Select one or more of these leafy green vegetables as the base of your salad.

Arugula Kale Raddichio

Boston bibb lettuce | Iceberg lettuce | Red leaf lettuce

Escarole Mixed greens Romaine

Green leaf lettuce Napa Cabbage Spinach



## Step Two: Boost the Nutrients with Extra Vegetables and Fruit

Adding extra vegetables to a salad helps add to the texture and flavor, as well as boost the nutrients. Be creative by chopping, dicing, shredding, or slicing a variety of different colored veggies, such as:.

Artichoke hearts Beets Bell pepper Bok choy

Broccoli Cauliflower Carrot Celery

Corn Cucumber Mushrooms Onion

Radishes Red Cabbage Snap or snow peas Tomatoes

Water chestnuts Zucchini

Fruits may also work well in salads and add a little sweetness to the combination. Examples include:

Apple Fresh Berries Dried Cherries Grapes

Mandarin Oranges Melon Pear Raisins

## Step Three: Consider Adding Protein to Make it a Main Dish

Adding some type of protein food to your salad can make it a hearty main course.

### Cooked Meat, Poultry and Seafood:

Beef, Boiled egg, Chicken, Ham, Salmon, Shrimp, Tuna, Turkey

#### **Vegetarian** options include:

Black beans, Chickpeas, Edamame, Kidney beans, Navy beans, Tofu

\*Nuts and seeds can also be sources of protein for vegetarians

## Step Four: Dress Your Salad

Dress your salad with a small amount of dressing.

For options lower in saturated fat, consider oil and vinegar or yogurt-based dressings instead of traditional creamy options. Salsa can also be a fun way to top a salad.

Garnish with a snip of fresh herbs, such as cilantro, parsley or basil, if desired.

### **Combination Ideas**

- Romaine lettuce, corn, salsa, chopped avocado, with grilled chicken and lime juice
- Chickpeas, diced cucumber, tomato and onion, with an herb vinaigrette
- Arugula, sliced red pears, walnuts, blue cheese, and honey dijon dressing
- Mixed greens, roasted beets, oranges, and pistachios

## Sprinkle on Extras (Optional)

These tasty toppings carry a larger amount of calories in a small portion size. Use them sparingly to top off a salad.

You can also get creative by adding cooked grains to your salad. These foods can help balance out your meal. Plus, they add additional flavors and texture to your salad.

#### **Cooked Grains**

Bulgur, Farro, Quinoa, Wheat berries

#### **Unsalted Nuts and Seeds\***

Almonds, Cashews, Peanuts, Pecans, Pistachios, Pumpkin seeds, Sunflower seeds, Walnuts

#### Cheese

Blue, Cheddar, Feta, Mozzarella, Parmesan

#### Other

Avocado, Bacon bits, Croutons, Olives, Tortilla strips

For a referral to a registered dietitian nutritionist and for additional food and nutrition information, visit www.eatright.org.



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