

SMALL TIPS TO LOSE BIG

Healthy Eating Tip of the Month [January 2015]

Goal Setting | Small Changes | Healthier Food Choices | Self-Monitoring

Goal Setting for a Healthy Weight

To turn your weight loss ambitions into success, create goals that will lead you to a healthier lifestyle in small, manageable steps. Develop your weight loss goals with these SMART guidelines:

Specific: Write down the details of exactly what you would like to accomplish. Where? When? Why? How? Set a basis for tracking your progress.

Measurable: Think in both the long and short term. Set weekly and monthly goals to keep yourself on track.

Attainable: Consider your expectations and personal situation. It's great to aim high, but don't set yourself up for failure.

Relevant: Is this change important to you right now?

Timing: Choose a definite start and finish date to hold yourself accountable.



Setbacks will happen.

You're human. Don't let an overindulgence force you off the track. Instead,

- Use it as a learning opportunity. What can you do to prevent this from happening again?
- Keep a positive attitude. Making lifestyle changes is not easy, give yourself some credit!
- Focus on the progress and changes you have made and continue to find strategies that work best for you.

Find a reliable support system.

Get your spouse, children, family, and friends on board with your goals. It can be easier to make lifestyle changes when you have others that you can rely on for support. Also try joining a community weight loss group or attending group fitness classes to meet others working towards similar goals.

Small Steps to a Healthier Lifestyle

Successful weight loss requires a healthy diet, regular exercise, and behavior change. While this may sound overwhelming, it doesn't have to be. The key is making small changes that become a lifestyle.

Healthy Eating

Eat more fruits and vegetables.



They will fill you up and provide your body with many nutrients.

- Add volume to your morning eggs with spinach, onions, or mushrooms
- Serve yourself less cereal in the morning and add fresh or frozen fruit
- Lighten up your sandwich by replacing some of the meat and cheese with tomatoes, cucumbers, dark leafy greens, and onions
- Bring cut-up fruit or vegetables with you on the go for a healthy snack

Portion Sizes

To keep your food intake in check, try these tips to control your portions:

- Serve yourself one serving of the amount listed on the food label, and eat on a plate or bowl instead of out of the package
- When eating out, immediately box up half of your meal
- If you prepare a large recipe, freeze or store the leftovers for a future meal instead of going back for seconds
- Eat slowly to allow your body to recognize when you are full
- Be aware of appropriate serving sizes and use measuring cups to serve food



What is a healthy portion?

1 tsp margarine	One dice 
3oz meat	Deck of cards
1 cup cooked pasta	A baseball 
1.5 oz cheese	Three dice 
1/2 cup fruit 	A tennis ball

Small steps lead to big changes!

Behavior Change

At home:

- * Keep tempting foods out of the house!
- * Stay out of the kitchen unless you are cooking
- * Have healthy snacks visible and ready to eat

At work:

- * Don't eat at your desk
- * Have healthy snacks and water available
- * Walk during your break
- * Eat every 4 hours, avoid skip meals

At the table:

- * Dish out your plate on the counter and leave serving dishes off of the table
- * Use smaller plates and bowls
- * Wait 20 minutes until going back for seconds



Exercise
more.

Start slow and increase length and intensity as you can. Aim for 30 minutes to an hour each day.

Every bit of movement adds up! Two or three 10-15 minute bursts of activity can help you fit exercise into your day

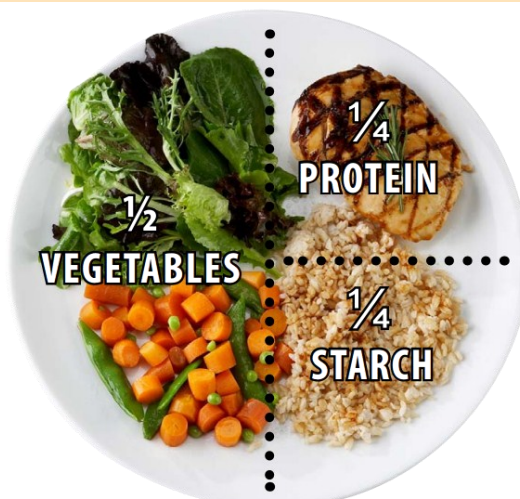
Take the stairs! It may be tough at first, but your body will adjust quickly.

Join a team or choose an activity you enjoy. Exercise doesn't have to be a chore, sports can be a fun way to get your heart rate up and body moving

Walk. Spend time with your family and/or pets with a walk after dinner each night

Enjoy your favorite T.V. show while using a treadmill or elliptical.

Aim for a healthy, balanced plate!



Better Food Choices

Start with these tips that focus on making better food choices. As these strategies become habits, work to set new goals for yourself to make more positive changes to achieve a healthier weight.

A **healthier** body weight will improve your overall health and well being.

Creating a healthier **lifestyle** does not have to be difficult. Start with **small changes** and continue to focus on the **big picture** of living a **healthier lifestyle**, not just losing weight.

Rather than reaching for candy or salty snacks, keep pre-portioned healthy options ready to grab in the cupboard or fridge to take with you. Try...

- A yogurt parfait with low-fat Greek yogurt and fresh fruit
- A banana or apple with a tablespoon of peanut butter
- Cottage cheese with peas
- Whole grain crackers and hummus
- A handful of trail mix
- A cheese stick and cherry tomatoes

Before cooking, remove the skin from poultry and trim the fat off of beef, pork, and chicken.

Enhance your lunch with a cup of warm soup or some fresh cut vegetables.



Mix it up! Top your pizza with vegetables instead of high fat, high sodium foods. Try broccoli, spinach, green peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, and zucchini.



Choose whole grain products over refined white options. Brown rice, whole wheat bread, and whole wheat pasta will provide you with more nutrients and fiber.

Drink water throughout the day and before each meal. Hydration is important and will keep you feeling full.

When baking, substitute half of the butter or oil with mashed ripe banana or applesauce to reduce the amount of fat.

Make a fruit smoothie when you are craving something sweet or need a quick breakfast. Blend low-fat milk, frozen fruit, and a banana.



Instead of reaching for chips and salsa, dip raw vegetables into salsa or fat-free ranch.

Add a splash of skim milk into your coffee instead of cream and/or sugar.

Spread mashed avocado on your sandwiches instead of mayo for some delicious healthy fats.



Self-Monitoring

Keep track of your progress!

What is self monitoring?

It's when you **observe** and **record** what you **eat** and when you **exercise**. It helps you to become more **aware** of your behaviors and how they keep you on track for weight loss success.

Regular Weighing

Record your weekly weight to monitor progress, but don't let the number on the scale discourage you. Be patient, but also mindful of additional lifestyle changes to consider if the number starts to creep up. Also, don't weight yourself more than once per week, as daily changes are not a good reflection of your progress.

Food Logs

Keeping track of every bite of food that goes into your mouth will allow you to realize what you are eating every day. Try to keep a small notebook with you and record the food, amount, and the time when you are eating. It may also be helpful to use an app or your phone notebook.

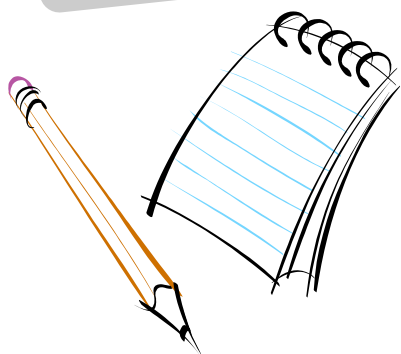
Exercise Logs

Logging your exercise helps you create a new habit, and reminds you to get your heart rate up each day. You can exercise once per day or throughout the day to reach your goal of at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise. In your journal, record how long you worked out and what type of activity it was.

A food log might look something like this:

Time	Food	Amount	Notes
8am	Oatmeal	1 cup	With milk and brown sugar
8am	Orange juice	½ cup	
10am	Banana	1 med.	
12:30pm	Turkey sandwich	1	Wheat bread, cheddar cheese, light mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion
12:30pm	Cottage cheese	1/3 cup	
1pm	Diet coke	12 oz can	

If you bite it, write it!



Technology

Pedometers– These offer an easy and inexpensive way to monitor your activity. Aim for 10,000 steps per day and find more opportunities to move when you can.

Fitness Trackers– These devices (such as Nike’s FuelBand and the FitBit) gather more information about your physical activity. They sync with your smartphone or computer to give you accurate information about your activity and calories burned.

Apps– There are many different apps available that promote wellness. Try different ones out to see which you like best. These can be very useful for tracking exercise patterns, food intake, and more.

Apps to Try

MyFitnessPal by MyFitnessPal.com (Free):



This has a large food database and makes it easy to keep track of your intake of different nutrients. It helps you set goals for both calories and exercise, and holds you accountable for checking in and meeting your goals.

SparkPeople Diet & Food Tracker by SparkPeople.com (Free):



This app has a database of over 3,000,000 foods to keep track of what you are eating each day. It also provides exercise demos and makes recording your activity easy.

Fitbit by Fitbit, Inc. (Free):



Use this app to track basic activity and calories to get a complete picture of your daily stats– including steps, distance, calories burned, sleep, weight, and more. This can be paired with the Fitbit tracker bracelet for information on calories burned, activity, and sleep.

For more information about healthy weight loss, check out:

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov>

http://www.cdc.gov/HEALTHYWEIGHT/LOSING_WEIGHT/INDEX.HTML

<http://www.eatright.org>

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