The diabetes portion plate

How to divide your plate

The diabetes portion plate is an easy to use tool that can help you visualize your portion sizes and make smart, healthy choices about what you eat.

Nonstarchy vegetables
Fill 1/2 of your plate with nonstarchy vegetables, such as tomatoes, green beans, peppers, zucchini, artichokes, and broccoli.

Whole grains and starches
Fill 1/4 of your plate with grains and starchy foods, such as whole-grain breads, high-fiber cereal, brown rice, whole-grain pasta, potatoes, and dried beans.

Protein
Fill 1/4 of your plate with protein, such as skinless chicken, lean cuts of beef or pork, fish, shrimp, eggs, and tofu.

Use a 9-inch plate.

Provided as an educational resource by Merck
Recommended servings to fill each section of your plate

Below are some examples of food servings representing the sections of a portion plate as well as the number of servings* recommended for each meal.

*Talk with your health care team about your personal meal plan. The number of servings you should choose may vary from this general guideline.

### Fruits
Have 1 serving per meal
- One serving =
  - 1 small fresh fruit
  - 1 cup cubed melon or raspberries
  - 1 large kiwi

### Milk and Dairy
Have 1 serving per meal
- One serving =
  - 8-ounce cup fat-free or low-fat milk or fortified unsweetened plain soy milk
  - 6-ounce plain fat-free or low-fat yogurt

### Fats
Have 1–2 servings per meal
- One serving =
  - 1 teaspoon oil, margarine, mayonnaise, or butter. Use oils that are low in saturated fat. Good choices are canola, peanut, and olive oil.
  - 1 tablespoon regular or 2 tablespoons reduced-fat salad dressing
  - 10 small peanuts or 6 whole almonds

### Whole Grains and Starches
Have 1 serving per meal
- One serving =
  - 1 slice whole-grain bread
  - 1/2 to 3/4 cup dry, unsweetened cereal
  - 1/2 corn on cob, large
  - 1/3 to 1/2 cup cooked pasta or noodles
  - 1/3 cup brown or white rice
  - 1/4 bagel (1 ounce)
  - 1 medium potato

### Nonstarchy Vegetables
Have 1–2 servings per meal
- One serving =
  - 1 cup raw or 1/2 cup cooked vegetables such as:
    - tomatoes
    - green beans
    - salad greens
    - peppers
    - zucchini
    - artichokes
    - broccoli

### Protein
Have 1–3 servings per meal
- One serving =
  - 1 ounce fish, skinless chicken, or lean meat
  - 1 tablespoon peanut butter
  - 1 ounce reduced-fat cheese
  - 1/2 cup tofu
  - 1 egg

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**Measurement Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liquid measure</th>
<th>Dry measure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup = 250 mL</td>
<td>1 cup = 225 grams</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 cup = 125 mL</td>
<td>1/2 cup = 113 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ounce = 30 mL</td>
<td>1 ounce = 28 grams</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon = 5 mL</td>
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</tbody>
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Use a 9-inch plate.