

Always start with serving size. Be mindful of the serving you wish to consume.

Total fat is the amount of fat per serving. Limit saturated fats and eliminate trans fats. These fats impact your heart because they raise bad cholesterol in your blood. Saturated fat is the largest dietary contributor to high cholesterol. Limit saturated fat to 22 grams/day for a 2000 calorie diet. Trans fat was added to the food label in 2006. This fat is harmful to your body because it decreases your healthy HDL cholesterol and increases the bad LDL cholesterol. Avoid trans fat as much as possible. The American Heart Association recommends limiting cholesterol (from dietary sources) to 300 mg per day or less.

<u>Sodium</u> can contribute to high blood pressure, therefore, the American Heart Association advises sodium be limited to 2300 mg per day.

<u>Carbohydrates</u> are the main source of energy for the body. Recommendations are for 55 to 60 percent of total calories to come from carbohydrates (approximately 275 to 300 grams for a 2,000-calorie diet). The majority of carbohydrate calories should come from complex rather than simple carbohydrates. Of total caloric intake, approximately 45 to 50 percent of calories should be from complex carbohydrates, and 10 percent or less from simple carbohydrates.

Fiber is an essential nutrient for good health. The health benefits of a <u>diet</u> rich in fiber include lower cholesterol and a reduced risk of <u>heart disease</u> and certain cancers. Strive for 25-30 grams of fiber per day.