

MEAL PLAN "A"

1,200 Calories

BREAKFAST: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + one half of a fresh mango

OR:

1 PROTEIN UNIT + 1 FRUIT

Examples:

- 7 egg whites (hard boiled or cooked with pan spray as an omelet) + ½ grapefruit

OR:

- 1 cup nonfat cottage cheese + 1 cup pineapple

LUNCH: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + 1 cup strawberries

OR:

1 PROTEIN UNIT + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 3 ounces roasted chicken breast
 - AND 2 cups steamed broccoli
 - AND 4 cups of salad greens with seasoned vinegar
 - AND one large orange

P.M. SNACK: 1 PROTEIN SNACK + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- Herbalife® Protein Bar Deluxe + 1 medium apple

DINNER: 2 PROTEIN UNITS + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 8 ounces broiled fish with teriyaki sauce
 - AND 1 cup steamed spinach + 1 cup steamed carrots
 - AND mixed green salad
 - AND ½ cup brown rice
 - AND 1 cup mixed honeydew and cantaloupe cubes

MEAL PLAN "B"

1,500 Calories

BREAKFAST: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + one half of a fresh mango

OR:

1 PROTEIN UNIT + 1 FRUIT

Examples:

- 7 egg whites (hard boiled or cooked with pan spray as an omelet) + ½ grapefruit
- OR:
- 1 cup nonfat cottage cheese + 1 cup pineapple

A.M. SNACK: 1 PROTEIN SNACK

Example:

- 1 Herbalife® Protein Bar Deluxe

LUNCH: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + 1 cup strawberries

OR:

2 PROTEIN UNITS + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 6 to 8 ounces roasted chicken or turkey breast, fish, tuna or shellfish
 - AND 2 cups steamed green beans
 - AND 4 cups of salad greens with light dressing
 - AND ½ cup brown rice
 - AND one large orange

P.M. SNACK: 1 PROTEIN SNACK + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 1 packet Herbalife® Roasted Soy Nuts with Cardia®* Salt + 1 medium apple

DINNER: 2 PROTEIN UNITS + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 6 to 8 ounces broiled fish with teriyaki sauce
 - AND 1 cup steamed spinach + 1 cup steamed carrots
 - AND tossed green salad with light dressing
 - AND ½ cup brown rice
 - AND 1 cup mixed melon cubes

*Cardia® is a registered trademark of Nutrition 21, Inc.

MEAL PLAN "C"

1,800 Calories

BREAKFAST: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + one half of a fresh mango

OR:

1 PROTEIN UNIT + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Examples:

- 7 egg whites (hard boiled or cooked with pan spray as an omelet) + ½ whole-grain English muffin + ½ grapefruit

OR:

- 1 cup nonfat cottage cheese + 1 fat-free whole-grain waffle + 1 cup pineapple

A.M. SNACK: 1 PROTEIN SNACK + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 1 Herbalife Protein Bar Deluxe + one medium apple

LUNCH: 1 HERBALIFE® FORMULA 1 SHAKE + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 2 scoops (2 tablespoons) Formula 1 Shake Mix + 8 fl. oz. nonfat milk or soymilk + 1 cup strawberries

OR:

2 PROTEIN UNITS + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 3 ounces chicken or turkey breast, fish, tuna or shellfish on one slice of whole-grain bread
 - AND 1 cup chopped vegetables
 - AND 1 cup tomato juice
 - AND 4 cups of salad greens
 - AND one large orange

P.M. SNACK: 1 PROTEIN SNACK + 1 FRUIT

Examples:

- Herbalife Protein Bar Deluxe + one medium apple

OR:

- 1 packet Roasted Soy Nuts with Cardia®* Salt + one fresh orange

DINNER: 2 PROTEIN UNITS + 2 VEGETABLES + SALAD + 1 GRAIN + 1 FRUIT

Example:

- 6 to 8 ounces broiled fish with teriyaki sauce
 - AND 1 cup steamed spinach + 1 cup steamed carrots
 - AND tossed green salad with light dressing
 - AND 1 cup whole-grain pasta
 - AND 1 cup watermelon

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FOOD LISTS FOR MEAL PLANNING

Protein Foods

FOOD ITEM	ONE UNIT	CALORIES	PROTEIN (GRAMS)
Egg whites	7 whites	115	25
Cottage cheese, nonfat	1 cup	140	28
Herbalife® Formula 1 Shake Mix + nonfat milk	2 tablespoons Formula 1 Shake Mix + 1 cup nonfat milk	180	18
Beef, lean	3 ounces, cooked weight	145-160	25
Chicken breast	3 ounces, cooked weight	140	25
Turkey breast	3 ounces, cooked weight	135	25
Turkey ham	4 ounces, cooked weight	135	18
Ocean-caught fish	4 ounces, cooked weight	130-170	25-31
Shrimp, crab, lobster	4 ounces, cooked weight	120	22-24
Tuna	4 ounces, water packed	145	27
Scallops	4 ounces, cooked weight	135	25
VEGETARIAN			
Soy Canadian bacon	4 slices	80	21 (varies)
Soy hot dog	2 links	110	22 (varies)
Soy ground round	¾ cup	120	24
Soy burgers	2 patties	160	26
Tofu, firm	½ cup	180	20 (varies)

Note: Calorie average is 135 calories per unit.

Fruits

FOOD ITEM	ONE UNIT	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)
Apple	1 medium	75	3
Apricots	3 whole	50	3
Avocado	¼ average fruit	80	2
Banana	1 small	100	3
Blackberries	1 cup	75	8
Blueberries	1 cup	110	5
Cantaloupe	1 cup cubed	55	1
Cherries	20	80	2
Grapes	1 cup	115	2
Grapefruit	½ fruit	40	2
Honeydew melon	1 cup, cubed	60	1
Kiwi	1 large	55	3
Mango	½ large	80	3
Nectarine	1 large	70	2
Orange	1 large	85	4
Papaya	½ large	75	3
Peach	1 large	70	3
Pear	1 medium	100	4
Pineapple	1 cup, diced	75	2
Plums	2 small	70	2
Strawberries	1 cup, sliced	50	4
Tangerine	1 medium	45	3
Watermelon	1 cup balls	50	1

Note: Calorie average is 76 calories per unit.

Cooked Vegetables

FOOD ITEM	ONE UNIT	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)
Acorn squash, baked	1 cup	85	6
Artichoke	1 medium	60	6
Asparagus	1 cup	45	4
Beets	1 cup	75	3
Broccoli	1 cup	45	5
Brussels sprouts	1 cup	60	4
Cabbage	1 cup	35	4
Cauliflower	1 cup	30	3
Carrots	1 cup	70	5
Celery, diced	1 cup	20	2
Chinese cabbage	1 cup	20	3
Collard greens	1 cup	50	5
Corn	1 ear	75	2
Eggplant	1 cup	30	3
Green beans	1 cup	45	4
Green peas	1 cup	140	8
Kale	1 cup	35	3
Leeks	1 cup	30	1
Mushrooms	1 cup	40	3
Mustard greens	1 cup	20	3
Onion	1 cup	105	4
Pumpkin	1 cup	50	3
Red cabbage	1 cup	30	3
Spinach	1 cup	40	4
Sweet potato	1 cup	200	4
Swiss chard	1 cup	20	2

Cooked Vegetables (continued)

FOOD ITEM	ONE UNIT	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)
Tomato juice	1 cup	40	1
Tomato sauce/puree	1 cup	100	5
Tomato soup, made with water	1 cup	85	0
Tomato vegetable juice	1 cup	45	2
Tomatoes	1 cup	70	3
Turnip greens	1 cup	30	5
Winter squash, baked	1 cup	70	7
Zucchini with skin	1 cup	30	3

Note: Calorie average is 56 calories per unit.

Raw Vegetables

FOOD ITEM	ONE UNIT	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)
Cabbage	1 cup	20	2
Carrots	1 cup	50	4
Cucumber	1 cup	15	1
Endive	1 cup	10	2
Pepper, green, chopped	1 cup	30	2
Peppers, red, chopped	1 cup	30	2
Pepper, yellow, chopped	1 cup	30	2
Romaine lettuce	1 cup	10	1
Spinach	1 cup	10	1
Tomatoes, chopped	1 cup	40	2

Note: Calorie average is 25 calories per unit.

Starches and Grains

STARCH/GRAIN	SERVING SIZE	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)	PROTEIN (GRAMS)
Beans (black, pinto, etc.)	½ cup, cooked	115-140	5-7	7
Bread (whole grain preferred)	1 slice	80-100	3	3-5
English muffin	½ muffin	80	1	2
Lentils	½ cup, cooked	115	8	9
Rice (brown preferred)	½ cup, cooked	110	2	3
Pasta (whole grain preferred)	½ cup, cooked	85	2	3
Potato, baked	½ medium	100		
Rice cakes	2 large	70	1	1
Tortilla, corn	2 tortillas	120	4	2
Cereals				
Bran flakes	¾ cup	100	3	5
Oatmeal, cooked	1 cup	130	4	6
Shredded wheat, bite size	¾ cup	115	3	4

Note: Calorie average is 100 calories per serving.

Taste Enhancers

FOOD ITEM	SERVING SIZE	CALORIES	FIBER (GRAMS)	FAT (GRAMS)
Cheese, reduced fat	1 ounce	50-80	0	2-5
Cheese, Parmesan	3 tablespoons	80	0	5
Nuts	½ ounce	80-100	0	6-11
Olive oil	1 teaspoon	40	0	4
Olives	10 large	50	0	7
Pine nuts, sesame seeds	1 tablespoon	50	1	4-7
Salad dressing, fat-free or low-fat	2 tablespoons	40-80	0	0-2

Note: Calorie average is 65 calories per serving.

Protein Snacks

FOOD ITEM	SERVING SIZE	CALORIES	PROTEIN (GRAMS)
Cheese, mozzarella, low-fat	1 ounce (1 stick)	70	8
Cottage cheese, nonfat	½ cup	70	14
Egg, hard boiled	1	80	4
Herbalife® Protein Bar Deluxe	1 bar	140	10
Herbalife® Peach Mango or Wild Berry Beverage Mix	1 packet	70	15
Herbalife® Protein Drink Mix	2 tablespoons in water	110	15
Herbalife® Creamy Chicken Soup Mix	1 packet	70	15
Milk, nonfat or 1%	1 cup	90-110	9
Soup, tomato, made with nonfat milk	1 cup	120	6
Soy crisps	1 ounce (about 17 crisps)	110	7
Herbalife® Roasted Soy Nuts with Cardia®* Salt	1 packet	110	11
Yogurt, nonfat, sugar-free	1 six-ounce carton	100	5

Note: Calorie average is 100 calories per serving.

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LOSE A POUND A WEEK

If you cut 500 calories a day from your typical intake, you will lose a pound in a week's time. Look at some of the examples below. The more you cut, the more you lose!

EXAMPLE 1: An Herbalife® Formula 1 shake for breakfast vs. A blueberry muffin and a medium vanilla frappuccino

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
Muffin and medium frappuccino	930	33
Formula 1 shake with nonfat milk	180	1.5
You save: 750 calories and 31.5 grams of fat. If you typically have "just a muffin and coffee" every day for breakfast, you could lose 1½ pounds a week just by making this one swap!		

EXAMPLE 2: Herbalife® Roasted Soy Nuts with Cardia®* Salt vs. Peanuts

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
¾ cup of peanuts, dry roasted	630	52
1 packet Herbalife® Roasted Soy Nuts with Cardia®* Salt	130	5
You save: 500 calories and 47 grams of fat		

EXAMPLE 3: Chicken breast vs. Red meat

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
6 oz. lean sirloin steak	660	29
3 oz. chicken breast	150	4
You save: 510 calories and 25 grams of fat		

EXAMPLE 4: Roast beef sandwich with cheese and mayonnaise vs. Turkey sandwich with vegetables and mustard

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
Roast beef sandwich + cheese, mayo	850	30
Turkey sandwich + vegetables, mustard	350	5
You save: 500 calories and 25 grams of fat		

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LOSE A POUND A WEEK (CONTINUED)

EXAMPLE 5: French fries vs. Steamed vegetables

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
35 French fries	560	28
1 cup zucchini + 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese	60	2
You save: 500 calories and 26 grams of fat		

EXAMPLE 6: Large restaurant Chinese chicken salad with fried noodles vs. 3 cups salad greens with 1 cup mixed fresh vegetables, 3 ounces grilled chicken breast and 2 tablespoons light salad dressing

FOOD	CALORIES	FAT (GRAMS)
Chinese chicken salad	Up to 1000	61
Greens/vegetables/chicken + light dressing	320	11
You save: up to 680 calories and 50 grams of fat each time you make this choice		

LOW-CALORIE SNACKS

Snacking doesn't have to be an unhealthy habit. It's not unusual to get hungry between meals—particularly if you have a long stretch in between. The key is planning ahead to make sure you have some healthy foods available, and ideally, you should combine some protein with a little carbohydrate to fill you up and keep you going. A protein-enriched beverage, a piece of string cheese and a piece of fruit, or a small carton of yogurt with a few low-fat crackers should do the trick.

HERE ARE SOME SNACK IDEAS—ALL UNDER 100 CALORIES:

- Nonfat latte made with nonfat milk or soy milk
- Mini pita bread with a quarter of an avocado
- Herbalife® Creamy Chicken Soup Mix
- Herbalife® Peach Mango or Wild Berry Beverage Mix
- Two rice cakes with one wedge light cheese
- One 100-calorie pudding cup
- ½ cup nonfat cottage cheese with ½ cup blueberries
- 1 ounce turkey jerky with one slice rye cracker
- One individual carton light nonfat yogurt with 1 tablespoon raisins
- Toasted whole-grain waffle with a sprinkle of cinnamon-sugar
- One stick mozzarella cheese with one sesame breadstick
- ¾ cup tomato soup made with nonfat milk
- Three hard-cooked egg whites mashed with a little Dijon mustard and a sliced tomato
- 15 baby carrots with 2 tablespoons fat-free ranch dressing
- 12 ounces tomato juice
- 10 soy crisps with a small peach
- One frozen fruit bar
- 1 cup whole strawberries with 1 tablespoon chocolate syrup

QUIZ: KNOW YOUR SNACKS

How much do you know about snacking habits? Snacking can be a healthy habit if you choose the right items and eat the right balance of foods for snacks to keep your energy level up. Unfortunately, many times we wait until we get the “snack attack,” and don’t choose as wisely as we should. Here are some questions to test how much you know about snacking.

1. What is America’s favorite snack food, and how much of it do we eat every year?

- a. Pretzels, and we eat about 50 million pounds
- b. Peanuts, and we eat about 25 million pounds
- c. Cookies, and we eat about 700 million pounds
- d. Potato chips, and we eat about 1.2 billion pounds

2. What does the shape of the original pretzel twist represent?

- a. A child’s playground game, similar to hopscotch
- b. A mother’s arms holding a baby
- c. A person’s arms crossed in prayer
- d. The coat of arms of the Hapsburg family in Germany, for whom the pretzel was invented

3. You are really craving something sweet. You run into the local food mart and find an array of pre-packaged goodies. Which of the following would have the fewest calories?

- a. A package of two frosted cupcakes
- b. A package of two crème-filled spongecakes
- c. A single-serve apple pie
- d. A single-serve pack of four powdered-sugar donuts

4. Popcorn can be a healthy snack, but you need to choose carefully. Which of the following popcorns have the MOST calories per cup?

- a. Cheese flavored
- b. Kettle-corn flavored
- c. Cinnamon-butter flavored
- d. Extra-butter flavored

5. Rice cakes can be the start of a healthy snack. The plain ones have only about 35 calories. To keep calories down, which of the following would be the best topping for your rice cake?

- a. 1 tablespoon of cream cheese
- b. 2 tablespoon of ricotta cheese and a sprinkle of cinnamon sugar
- c. 1 tablespoon of strawberry jam
- d. 1 tablespoon of peanut butter

6. You are craving something smooth and creamy. Which of the following choices has the fewest calories?

- a. A single-serve rice pudding
- b. A single-serve chocolate pudding
- c. One 6-ounce carton fruit-on-the-bottom yogurt
- d. Half a banana with a tablespoon of chocolate syrup

7. You're rummaging around the house for something to eat. You have the following available to you, and you can't decide which would do the least damage to your diet, calorie-wise. Which one should you choose?

- a. Four fig bars
- b. Three graham-cracker sheets
- c. 50 pistachio nuts
- d. 2 ounces of beef jerky

8. You have several leftovers in your refrigerator that look tempting for a snack. Which of the following will use up the fewest calories from your calorie budget?

- a. A piece of lasagna, about 3 inches square
- b. Two fried-chicken drumsticks
- c. 1 cup of homemade macaroni and cheese
- d. 1 cup of shrimp fried rice

9. Sometimes when we think we're hungry, we're really just thirsty. If you think something to drink might help quench your thirst and your hunger pangs, which would be the best choice?

- a. 12 ounces of lemonade
- b. 12 ounces of cranberry juice
- c. 12 ounces of grapefruit juice
- d. 12 ounces of canned mango nectar

10. After an afternoon of shopping and with more to buy, you need a little something to get you through the afternoon. What's the best choice from the mall?

- a. One large soft pretzel
- b. One medium-sized fruit smoothie
- c. 1 cup of low-fat frozen yogurt
- d. A cup of chicken noodle soup from the deli

ANSWER KEY: KNOW YOUR SNACKS

1. What is America's favorite snack food, and how much of it do we eat every year?

- a. Pretzels, and we eat about 50 million pounds
- b. Peanuts, and we eat about 25 million pounds
- c. Cookies, and we eat about 700 million pounds
- d. Potato chips, and we eat about 1.2 billion pounds

2. What does the shape of the original pretzel twist represent?

- a. A child's playground game, similar to hopscotch
- b. A mother's arms holding a baby
- c. A person's arms crossed in prayer
- d. The coat of arms of the Hapsburg family in Germany, for whom the pretzel was invented

3. You are really craving something sweet. You run into the local food mart and find an array of pre-packaged goodies. Which of the following would have the fewest calories?

- a. A package of two frosted cupcakes
- b. A package of two crème-filled spongecakes
- c. A single-serve apple pie
- d. A single-serve pack of four powdered-sugar donuts

The donuts have 238 calories; the spongecakes have 300, the pie has 480 and the cupcakes have 360.

4. Popcorn can be a healthy snack, but you need to choose carefully. Which of the following popcorns have the MOST calories per cup?

- a. Cheese flavored
- b. Kettle-corn flavored
- c. Cinnamon-butter flavored
- d. Extra-butter flavored

Cheese-flavored popcorn averages a whopping 58 calories a cup. Cinnamon-butter flavored comes in next, at 50 calories. Kettle-corn and extra-butter flavored are both about 35 calories a cup. Natural style and air-popped popcorn have the fewest calories—about 30 calories per cup.

5. Rice cakes can be the start of a healthy snack. The plain ones have only about 35 calories. To keep calories down, which of the following would be the best topping for your rice cake?

- a. 1 tablespoon of cream cheese
- b. 2 tablespoon of ricotta cheese and a sprinkle of cinnamon sugar
- c. 1 tablespoon of strawberry jam
- d. 1 tablespoon of peanut butter

Regular cream cheese has about 50 calories a tablespoon, as does the strawberry jam. A tablespoon of peanut butter has 95 calories. The ricotta cheese is a calorie-bargain, with 2 tablespoons having only about 25 calories. Spread some on a rice cake with a little cinnamon sugar for a tasty treat.

6. You are craving something smooth and creamy. Which of the following choices has the fewest calories?

- a. A single-serve rice pudding
- b. A single-serve chocolate pudding
- c. One 6-ounce carton fruit-on-the-bottom yogurt
- d. Half a banana with a tablespoon of chocolate syrup

Some yogurts are healthy, and if this had been a “light” version, it would have been the best choice. But low-fat yogurts with fruit on the bottom can have 150 or more calories per individual carton. Rice pudding and chocolate puddings have about 130 to 140 calories per serving, depending on the brand. But a half of banana has only about 45 calories, and the syrup add about 50—under 100 calories for a delicious treat (even better if the banana is frozen).

7. You’re rummaging around the house for something to eat. You have the following available to you, and you can’t decide which would do the least damage to your diet, calorie-wise. Which one should you choose?

- a. Four fig bars
- b. Three graham-cracker sheets
- c. 50 pistachio nuts
- d. 2 ounces of beef jerky

The pistachio nuts have about 160 calories; the fig bars add up to 220 calories, the graham crackers would have about 180 calories, and the beef jerky is about 230 calories. If you get the pistachio nuts in the shell, that’s even better—it takes time to crack each one open, and it will slow down the rate at which you eat.

8. You have several leftovers in your refrigerator that look tempting for a snack. Which of the following will use up the fewest calories from your calorie budget?

- a. A piece of lasagna, about 3 inches square
- b. Two fried-chicken drumsticks
- c. 1 cup of homemade macaroni and cheese
- d. 1 cup of shrimp fried rice

Believe it or not, the two fried-chicken drumsticks, even though they are fried, have the fewest calories—about 250 for the two drumsticks. If you take off the breaded coating, you still get the flavor of the chicken and can save yourself about 75 more calories. All the other selections have between 400 to 500 calories each—way too much for most people as just a snack.

ANSWER KEY: KNOW YOUR SNACKS (CONTINUED)

9. Sometimes when we think we're hungry, we're really just thirsty. If you think something to drink might help quench your thirst and your hunger pangs, which would be the best choice?

- a. 12 ounces of lemonade
- b. 12 ounces of cranberry juice
- c. 12 ounces of grapefruit juice
- d. 12 ounces of canned mango necta

Of the four choices, grapefruit juice has the fewest calories per ounce. Twelve ounces of grapefruit juice has about 150 calories; all the others have about 200 calories in a 12 oz. serving because they all have added sugar. Better yet, when you are thirsty, try mineral water with just a few tablespoons of juice. It's refreshing and tasty, but you will minimize calories considerably.

10. After an afternoon of shopping and with more to buy, you need a little something to get you through the afternoon. What's the best choice from the mall?

- a. One large soft pretzel
- b. One medium-sized fruit smoothie
- c. 1 cup of low-fat frozen yogurt
- d. A cup of chicken noodle soup from the deli

The chicken noodle soup is the clear winner here, at only 175 calories for a cup. The large pretzels from the mall can be as much as 400 calories each; a cup of frozen low-fat yogurt will cost you about 280 calories; and the medium smoothie—which has fruit and frozen yogurt and added sugar—could be 400 calories or more.

WATER WORKS

Drinking plenty of water is an important part of maintaining a healthy weight and a nutritious diet. Water plays an essential role in helping your body process nutrients, maintain normal circulation and keep the proper balance of fluids.

REPLACE WHAT YOU LOSE

After each 30-minute workout, drink two 8 oz. glasses of water to replenish your fluids. If you find you become thirsty while working out, consider using a sports bottle to help you stay hydrated while you exercise.

Because of their calorie content, soft drinks and fruit juices are not good choices for replacing lost fluids if you are trying to lose weight or manage your weight. You might try adding just a splash of fruit juice or a slice of lemon or lime to a glass of water if you don't like the taste of plain water.

HOW MUCH WATER IS ENOUGH?

As a general guideline, try to drink six to eight 8 oz. glasses of water a day. If you exercise, you will probably need to drink more to replenish the water lost through sweating.

You can usually trust your sense of thirst to let you know when you need to drink. Your sense of thirst, combined with simply paying attention to how many glasses of water you've had in a day, can help you to keep your body hydrated.

WHEN WATER ISN'T ENOUGH

The next time you're thirsty, it could be smart to think before you drink. While "you are what you eat," the phrase is more accurately "you are what you drink." Our bodies are about 60 percent water, and while watery foods can help meet our needs, most of our daily water needs are met from the fluids we drink. Aside from plain water, consumers are faced with a dizzying array of juices, juice drinks, vitamin-fortified waters, sports drinks, energy drinks and teas—making it difficult to choose the best beverage to help meet fluid needs.

For the average person who exercises moderately, plain water is a perfectly good choice. But many people prefer drinks with a little flavor, and tastier fluids may encourage consumption. And as exercise duration and intensity increase, it's important to not only replace fluid losses, but to replace body salts—such as sodium and potassium—that are lost with sweating.

WATER WORKS (CONTINUED)

LOOK BEFORE YOU DRINK

When evaluating beverages, a good place to start is by reading the nutrition facts label. For instance, sodas or fruit drinks are often high in calories and sugar, and low on nutrients. Not only can these empty calories pile on the pounds, the high-sugar concentration in sodas and fruit drinks can actually slow down the rate at which the body absorbs fluid. If you see high-fructose corn syrup at the top of the ingredient list, you may want to pass. Sugars other than fructose, in lower concentrations, are much better absorbed.

Some energy drinks have a combination of caffeine and sugar, designed to give you a quick spike in energy. But if you aren't used to consuming caffeinated drinks, these could make you jittery or upset your stomach.

So what should you look for? It's a good idea to check labels for electrolytes, such as sodium and potassium, which are salts that your body loses when you perspire. In addition to replacing losses, electrolytes can also add some flavor, which will encourage you to drink more. Also, look for drinks with less than 100 calories per 8 oz. serving. Higher calories means a higher sugar concentration; you also don't want to drink back the calories you just burned on the treadmill.

While too much sugar can be a problem, a little bit of carbohydrate in beverages can help to maintain blood sugar while you are exercising. Also, a mixture of several forms of carbohydrate in the drink helps to get carbohydrate into working muscle better than just one carbohydrate source.

A drink such as one made with Herbalife's H³O[®] Fitness Drink mix could be a good choice because it contains the right amount of readily absorbed carbohydrates, no caffeine, and the essential electrolytes people lose when they perspire. It comes in a powder that mixes easily with water, and is available either in a canister or in convenient single-serve "stick packs" that can be thrown in a bag or pocket and mixed in any water bottle.

STAYING HYDRATED

You may become dehydrated before you are actually thirsty. This is one reason that athletes learn to drink on schedule. Two cups of fluid a couple of hours before you start exercising should be followed with another cup or so 10 to 20 minutes before you start. A few ounces every 15 minutes or so when you are working out can help prevent excessive fluid losses. One way to monitor your hydration is to note the color of your urine. "People who are optimally hydrated should urinate every one to two hours," says Luigi Gratton, M.D., M.P.H., clinical physician at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)*. "And your urine should be pale yellow or clear," says Gratton. "Darker color usually means more concentrated urine, an indication that you should increase your fluid intake."

Watch for other signs and symptoms of dehydration during exercise, such as muscle cramping, or feeling light-headed or faint. Even if you're only a weekend warrior, adequate fluids are important for a healthy, well-functioning body. If you think you drink less than you should, a flavorful beverage designed to help you hydrate might be just the thing to help meet your fluid needs.

* Titles are for identification purposes only. The University of California does not review, approve or endorse Herbalife® products.