

Why Whole Grains are Healthy



Why Whole Grains are Good for You

Shrinks Belly fat?

- In a recent Penn State study, individuals who included whole grains such as oatmeal, whole grain cereal, barley, and brown rice in their weight loss diet lost more belly fat than individuals who chose refined grains instead.
- Eating whole grains may also help you maintain a healthy weight

Lowers cholesterol?

 Eating whole grain foods has been shown to lower LDL ("bad cholesterol"), increase HDL ("good cholesterol") and lower triglycerides (another type of fat)

Manages blood glucose (sugar)?

- Most whole grain foods are low on the glycemic index. Low glycemic index foods produce a slow and steady rise in blood glucose levels
- Eating whole grain foods may help prevent Type 2 diabetes

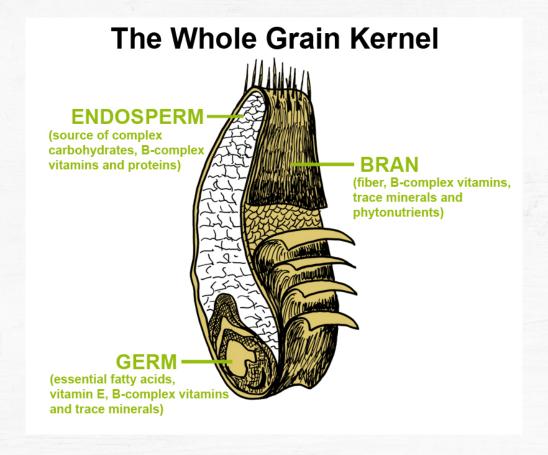


What are Whole Grains?

- Whole grain is the grain in its most natural form. Just like an egg its made of the shell, yolk, and white, the grain, is made of three different layers:
- Bran The outer shell of the grain contains phytochemicals (disease-fighting substances), fiber, B vitamins and minerals such as calcium, magnesium, iron, copper and zinc.
- Endosperm The inner portion of the grain contains carbohydrates, protein, and some B vitamins
- Germ The inner core of the grain contains, B vitamins, vitamin E, unsaturated (healthy) fat, phytochemicals and antioxidants (disease-fighting substance)



The Whole Grain





What are Refined Grains?

- Refined grains only contain the endosperm.
- Refined grains contain less vitamins and minerals than whole grains



Refined Grains





How Much Whole Grain Should I Eat Every Day?

- Eat at least 3 servings of whole grains per day. Each serving contains 16g of whole grains
- One serving is:
 - ½ cup cooked brown rice
 - ½ cup whole wheat pasta
 - ½ cup cooked oatmeal



How much Should I Eat?



Yellow cup = 1/2 cup



Finding Whole Grains on Supermarket Shelves

Watch out for words that "sound" like they are whole grain but are not

- These are:
 - Multigrain
 - Semolina
 - Honey wheat
 - "Enriched" wheat flour
 - Corn flakes
 - Grits
 - High fiber



Enriched Pasta





How do I know if I am Buying Whole Grain Foods?

- Check the ingredient list
 - The first ingredient should include the word "whole" followed by the grain. For example "whole oats" "whole rye"

Whole Wheat Pasta





Whole Grain Rice

- Whole grain or Brown rice is a whole grain food
- Brown rice and white rice contain similar amounts of carbohydrate per serving
- Brown rice may require additional water and it takes longer to cook than white rice

Whole Grain Brown Rice





Quinoa

- A nutrition powerhouse, quinoa is a grain full of protein, vitamins, minerals, and fiber
- Roast quinoa on a dry skillet for a few minutes and cook one cup of quinoa in two cups of water.
- Quinoa will be done when the grain is transparent and there is a dark ring around it.
- Use quinoa as a side dish.



Quinoa





Quinoa

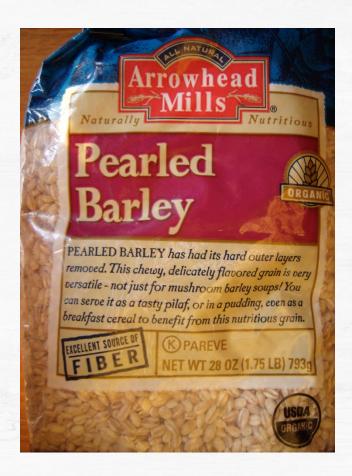


Barley

- Barley is another low glycemic index food winner.
- Barley is a "soup food" and a side dish



Barley







Oats

- Buy old fashioned or steel cut oats
- Steel cut oats have a nutty taste and require longer cooking time
- Buy plain oats and add your own fruit, seeds, and nuts for extra nutrition

Oats





Cold Whole Grain Cereal

- Read the ingredient: Look for "whole" in front of the grain.
- Some cereals carry the whole grain council stamp.
 - The stamp indicates whether the cereal has 8 grams (half serving) or 16 grams (1 serving) of whole grain
 - Remember: Your goal is to have 3 servings of whole grain servings per day



Whole Grain Cereal











Whole Grain Couscous

- Couscous cooks in a very short time making it an ideal side dish for a quick meal
- Add vegetables and seeds (pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds) for added nutrition and flavorful twist

Whole Wheat Couscous





Buckwheat

- An alternative to "white flour" pancakes, buckwheat comes to life with berries, and nuts
- Agave syrup is a low glycemic food that can be used instead of syrup



Buckwheat Flour







Whole Grain Snacks

- Corn is another whole grain and corn based snacks and corn products such as corn tortillas are whole grain foods
- Healthy popcorn tips:
 - On the stove, use a small amount of olive oil
 - Place popcorn in a brown bag, seal it and use the popcorn setting on the microwave
- Select corn chips made with 100% corn



Corn - Popcorn





Corn Chips





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