



Using the Nutrition Facts Table: % Daily Value

How to CHOOSE

The Nutrition Facts table gives you information on calories and 13 core nutrients. Use the amount of food and the % Daily Value (% DV) to choose healthier food products.

Follow these three steps:

1 LOOK at the amount of food

Nutrition Facts are based on a specific amount of food (also known as the serving size). Compare this to the amount you actually eat.

2 READ the % DV

The % DV helps you see if a specific amount of food has a little or a lot of a nutrient.

5% DV or less is a **LITTLE**
 15% DV or more is a **LOT** } This applies to all nutrients.

3 CHOOSE

Make a better choice for you. Here are some nutrients you may want...

less of

- Fat
- Saturated and trans fats
- Sodium

more of

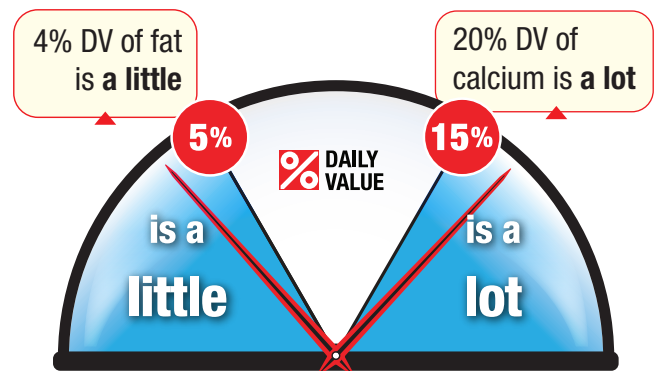
- Fibre
- Vitamin A
- Calcium
- Iron

Here is an example of how to choose:

You are at the grocery store looking at yogurt. The small container (175 g) of yogurt you pick has a **little** fat (4% DV) and a **lot** of calcium (20% DV) – this is a better choice if you are trying to eat less fat and more calcium as part of a healthy lifestyle!

Yogurt

Nutrition Facts	
Per 3/4 cup (175 g)	
Amount	% Daily Value
Calories 160	
Fat 2.5 g	4 %
Saturated 1.5 g	8 %
+ Trans 0 g	
Cholesterol 10 mg	
Sodium 75 mg	3 %
Carbohydrate 25 g	8 %
Fibre 0 g	0 %
Sugars 24 g	
Protein 8 g	
Vitamin A 2 %	Vitamin C 0 %
Calcium 20 %	Iron 0 %



How to COMPARE

Use the amount of food and the % Daily Value (% DV) to compare and choose healthier food products.

Follow these three steps:

1 LOOK at the amounts of food

Compare the amounts of food (also known as the serving sizes) in the Nutrition Facts tables.

Cracker A has 9 crackers and weighs 23 grams.

Cracker B has 4 crackers and weighs 20 grams.

Because the weights are similar, you can compare these Nutrition Facts tables.

2 READ the % DVs

Since you are comparing crackers, you may want to look at the % DVs for saturated and trans fats, sodium and fibre.

Cracker A has 13% DV for saturated and trans fats, 12% DV for sodium and 4% DV for fibre.

Cracker B has 2% DV for saturated and trans fats, 4% DV for sodium and 12% DV for fibre.

Remember: 5% DV or less is a little and 15% DV or more is a lot. This applies to all nutrients.

3 CHOOSE

In this case, **Cracker B** would be a better choice if you are trying to eat less saturated and trans fats, less sodium and more fibre as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Use the Nutrition Facts table and *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* to make healthier food choices.

Cracker A

Nutrition Facts			
Per 9 crackers (23 g)			
Amount		% Daily Value	
Calories 90			
Fat 4.5 g			7 %
Saturated 2.5 g + Trans 0 g			13 %
Cholesterol 0 mg			
Sodium 280 mg			12 %
Carbohydrate 12 g			4 %
Fibre 1 g			4 %
Sugars 0 g			
Protein 3 g			
Vitamin A	0 %	Vitamin C	0 %
Calcium	2 %	Iron	8 %

Cracker B

Nutrition Facts			
Per 4 crackers (20 g)			
Amount		% Daily Value	
Calories 90			
Fat 2 g			3 %
Saturated 0.3 g + Trans 0 g			2 %
Cholesterol 0 mg			
Sodium 90 mg			4 %
Carbohydrate 15 g			5 %
Fibre 3 g			12 %
Sugars 1 g			
Protein 2 g			
Vitamin A	0 %	Vitamin C	0 %
Calcium	2 %	Iron	8 %

Did you know?

You may be able to compare products that don't have similar amounts of food.

For example, you could compare the % DVs of a bagel (90 g) to the % DVs of 2 slices of bread (70 g) because you would most likely eat either amount of food at one meal.

