

Potassium Restricted Diet



The University of Rochester Medical Center's commitment to help Rochester become America's healthiest community by 2020

Purpose:

A low potassium diet helps prevent high blood levels of potassium. When blood potassium levels become too high, muscle weakness, and an irregular heart beat can occur. Limiting potassium in your diet will help keep your blood potassium levels normal.

Facts About Potassium:

Potassium is found in most foods. Fruits, vegetables, nuts, meat and milk are especially high in potassium. You will need to avoid or limit your intake of these foods. If your blood potassium level becomes too high, you will need to be very careful with your diet.

How to Follow a Low Potassium Diet:

- Avoid salt substitute because it has potassium.
- Use only herbs and spices or seasoning mixes that do not contain potassium
- Limit fruits and vegetables to 4 servings (1/2 cup each) a day
- Limit milk to 1/2 cup a day. This includes all types of milk, buttermilk, yogurt and ice cream.

Limit These High Potassium Fruits to One Serving a Day:

1/2 medium	Banana
3/4 cup	Mandarin Oranges
3/4 cup	Blackberries
1/2 cup	Orange Juice
1 cup	Boysenberries
1 medium	Orange
12 each	Cherries
1 medium	Peach
1 medium	Pear
2 each	Figs
2 medium	Plums
3 each	Prunes
1 cup	Prune Juice
2 tbsp.	Raisins
3 each	Prunes, dried
1/2	Grapefruit
1 cup	Raspberries
1 medium	Kiwi fruit
1 1/4 cup	Strawberries
1 cup	Mulberries
1 1/4 cup	Watermelon

Completely Avoid These Very High Potassium Fruits:

- Apricots
- Avocado
- Cantaloupe
- Honeydew Melon
- Nectarines
- Plantain
- Tangelos

Limit These High Potassium Vegetables to One Serving (1/2 cup) A Day:

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Brussels sprouts
- Collard greens
- Corn
- Cowpeas
- Dandelion greens

- Kale
- Mixed vegetables
- Mushrooms
- Parsnips
- *Potato (leached)
- Pumpkin
- Spinach
- Tomato juice
- Tomatoes, canned
- Turnips
- Zucchini

*Potatoes (white and sweet) should be leached before they are cooked. Peel the potato and cut into small pieces. Cover completely with water. Soak in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours. Drain well and cook in fresh water. Leaching potatoes will remove much of the potassium.

Completely Avoid These Very High Potassium Vegetables:

- Artichokes
- Butter beans
- Dried peas, beans, lentils
- Potatoes—baked, commercial French fries and chips
- Sweet potatoes
- Swiss chard
- Tomato paste / puree
- Winter squash
- Yams

Completely Avoid These Very High Potassium Foods:

- Chocolate candy or beverages
- Molasses
- Nuts