

PORTION DISTORTION

A portion of food is defined as how much food you choose to eat at one time, whether it be a home cooked meal or one from a restaurant or grocery store. Over the past few years, the portion sizes of pre-packed foods, beverages, and even fast foods have increased largely. This can make it difficult for us to know how much food our body actually needs in a day and cause us to overeat or overindulge. Eating oversized portions everyday can also add "empty calories" to our diets which can make it harder for us to eat a balanced diet.

How can portion control benefit our bodies?

Knowing the recommended portion sizes of certain foods and beverages can help us to:

- Maintain a healthy weight (without gaining or losing too much weight)
 - Stay within a food budget and healthy calorie intake
 - Eat a balanced diet that includes as many of the 5 food groups as possible (fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, & dairy)

Getting a HANDLE on portions...

We can actually use our hands to measure out healthy portion sizes of certain foods. Our hands can also be helpful if you do not have access to measuring cups, spoons, or food scales at a given time!

<p>Thumb 1 oz of cheese</p> 	<p>Palm 3 oz cooked meat, fish, chicken 1 ½ pieces of cornbread</p> 
<p>Thumb Tip 1 Tablespoon Peanut Butter</p> 	<p>Fist 1 cup cooked pasta, rice, or cereal</p> 
<p>Finger Tip 1 teaspoon butter</p> 	<p>Cupped Handful 1 oz nuts</p> 
<p>Index finger + middle finger 1 ½ oz cheese</p> 	<p>2 Cupped Handfuls 1 oz chips or pretzels</p> 
<p>Outstretched Hand 2 cups of cooked pasta, rice, cereal</p> 	

Recipe of the Month: Grilled Cheese w/ Peaches



Ingredients:

- 8 slices whole grain bread
- 1, 15-oz can of peaches, drained
- 8 slices low-fat cheddar cheese
- 7.5 cups spinach
- 4 teaspoons vegetable oil

Directions

1. Heat the 4 tsp of vegetable oil in a large non-stick pan over medium heat.
2. Place 4 slices of whole grain bread in the pan.
3. Layer (in this order) one slice of cheese, a handful of spinach, 4 to 6 peach slices, another slice of cheese, and a slice of bread on top of each original slice of bread.
4. After 4 to 5 minutes, flip each sandwich and cook another 4 to 5 minutes.

Recipe Source: Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, myplate.gov.

Material for this article was sourced from Just Say Yes to Fruits & Vegetables, Lesson 6: Portion Sizes

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