

# Mediterranean



Maintaining a healthy body weight brings various health benefits. It could help lower your blood pressure, relieve stress on your bones and muscles, and reduce your risk of heart disease and other chronic illnesses. But keeping an ideal weight goes beyond shedding a few extra pounds. It's about knowing your body's specific caloric requirements and achieving a healthy body composition.

Most fad diets that promise quick weight loss tend to be restrictive and often lead to muscle loss due to extreme caloric deficits. What you should aim for, instead, is a <u>low body-fat percentage.</u>

One of the most effective ways to burn fat and maintain an ideal body-fat percentage is to <u>count calories from</u>

<u>macronutrients</u> (aka macros).

Read on to know the important factors in counting calories, the two main formulae in computing for caloric needs, and tips for effective calorie management.



# What is a calorie and why is it important?

A calorie is a **unit of energy** that refers to the amount of heat needed to raise one gram of water's temperature by one degree Celsius. It comes from various sources, such as carbohydrates, fats, sugars, and even non-food products like coal and gas. In food labels, you'll notice the term kcal, short for kilocalorie, which is equal to 1,000 small calories. But, **what does it mean for you?** 



Calories provide the energy you need to perform daily activities, like thinking, running, walking, and exercising. Hence, it's difficult to stay focused when you fail to consume the recommended caloric intake for your weight, age, and height.



Although calories essential are everyone, too many calories is not good for your health. It causes weight gain in the form of body fat. Consuming more calories than you burn can cause stomach rolls and stubborn arm fat. l† also heightens the risk for heart disease. especially if you're fond of eating food with saturated and artificial trans fat.



## Does calorie counting work?

Calorie counting works provided that you burn more calories than you consume. It allows you to be aware of your caloric needs based on your age, weight, height, lifestyle, and goals. Your caloric needs are the number of calories you need to consume per day, enabling your body to perform basic metabolic functions and usual physical activities. Based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, an average American needs 1,600 to 3,000 calories per day. Take note, however, that this figure varies for each person. In the next section, you'll discover four essential factors in calorie counting.

What are the important factors in calorie counting?



# What are the important factors in calorie counting?

### Goals

It's important to set realistic goals when it comes to weight management. This approach helps prevent rapid weight gain and other health problems. Health experts recommend aiming to lose 1 to 2 pounds per week, which translates to 0.5 to 1 kilogram. To achieve this, you'll need to burn 500 to 1,000 calories more than you consume per day.

### Gender

Men and women have different recommended calorie intake. Generally, women need fewer calories than men. For instance, according to the National Health Service, men require 2,500 calories per day, while women need 2,000 calories. But, it's important to note that the level of physical activity is also a deciding factor when it comes to required caloric intake.

## Lifestyle

Active people need more calories than sedentary ones. They need more energy to execute intense workouts compared to individuals who seldom exercise. Consider your daily activities when limiting your caloric intake.



# What are the important factors in calorie counting?

## Age

Age is also a crucial factor in calorie counting. Children and adolescents need more calories since their bodies are developing. People in their twenties and middle-aged individuals require fewer calories than teenagers. Lastly, adults over 60 generally need fewer calories.

## Body Mass Index (BMI)

Body mass index refers to individuals' weight, measured in kilograms, divided by the square of their height in meters. It's crucial to know your BMI when losing weight since it ensures a healthy proportion. This way, you can lose weight without compromising your health and achieve your goal based on your height and weight.





## How to compute caloric needs

## Harris-Benedict Formula

This formula takes into account a person's weight, height, gender, age, and level of physical activity. Nutritionists often use the Harris-Benedict formula due to its comprehensive approach.

#### Harris-Benedict Equation

Men: BMR =  $66.47 + (6.24 \times weight in lbs) + (12.7 \times height in$ 

inches) – (6.755 x age)

Women: BMR = 655.1 + (4.35 x weight in lbs) + (4.7 x height in

inches) – (4.7 x age)

If you seldom exercise, multiply the result by 1.2. People who engage in average physical activities must multiply the answer by 1.3. Lastly, if you perform intense workouts, then multiply the result by 1.4.

For men, use this formula to calculate recommended caloric intake:  $66.47 + 13.75 \times (body weight in kilograms) + 5.003 \times (body height in cm) divided by <math>6.755 \times age$ . Then apply the same rules for physical activity.



## How to compute caloric needs

### **WHO Formula**

The World Health Organization offers a simpler equation for counting recommended caloric intake. For instance, women aged 18 to 29 must use this formula:  $14.7 \times (body weight in kilogram) + 496$ .

On the other hand, men in the same age group must follow this equation:  $15.3 \times (body weight in kilogram) + 679$ .

After using the formula, multiply the result by the physical activity factor from the Harris-Benedict equation.







Calories are nothing more than measurements of stored (potential) energy.

The "calorie counts" of various foods is simply letting you know how much potential energy the foods contain. Some foods are more energy dense than others. For example, a tablespoon of olive oil has about 100 calories worth of energy, whereas a tablespoon of protein powder has about 30 calories worth of energy.

## How do macronutrients relate to calories?

Each gram of **carbs** delivers 4 calories Each gram of **protein** delivers 4 calories Each gram of **fat** delivers 9 calories.

Once you know how many calories you **SHOULD** be eating, you also need to know how many you **ARE** eating. You don't know what you don't know. Unless you track it:)

The easiest way to do this is with SmartPlate. Track calories over the next 7 -14 days. Then compare the 2 values: average calories you eat daily & recommended kcal intake. See how far apart they are.

"What's get measured get managed"



## How many calories are there in each macronutrient?

How many calories are there in each macronutrient?

Macronutrients provide energy to humans so they can perform metabolic functions and daily activities. Each macronutrient contains different amounts of calories; hence, they provide varying levels of energy.

Below are three types of macronutrients, their examples, and the number of calories they contain.



## Carbohydrates

There are four calories per gram of carbohydrate. It is the body's main source of energy and you can find it in grains, fruits, starchy vegetables, dairy products, and legumes. It's advisable to consume whole grains instead of refined ones to get all the nutrients your body needs



### **Protein**

Like carbohydrates, one gram of protein contains four calories. Protein-rich foods include fish, seafood, lean beef, and low-fat milk. Since the human body digests protein more slowly than carbohydrates, a high protein diet avoids overeating. People who want to burn fat fast typically follow a protein-rich diet with black beans, salmon, eggs, chicken breast, and oats.



### Fat

There's a reason healthconscious individuals limit the
amount of fatty food in their
daily diet. One gram of fat
contains nine calories, double
the amount of calories in
protein and carbohydrates. Take
note that fat is still essential in a
person's diet. Opt for
polyunsaturated and
monounsaturated fats from
avocados, almonds, and
hazelnuts.

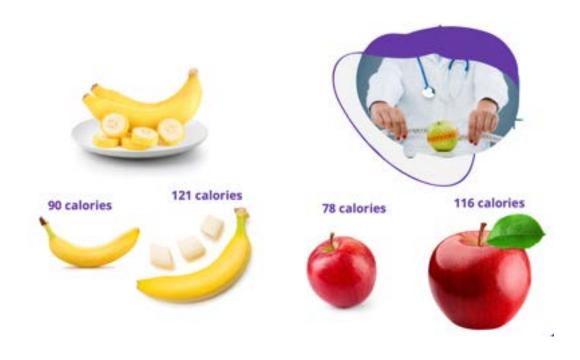


## Calories ARE important

The simple word of "calorie" can send a shock wave through one's system. We have collectively learned to steer clear of excess calories or increase our exercise regimen to counterbalance this mysterious force in our lives.

How accurate is your self reporting?

A small apple is a serving of fruit, but what exactly is a small apple? If you have a slightly larger apple than the arbitrary "small", does that mean it's a medium apple? And if so, does it mean that you've had two servings of fruit? Portions are important.



## How to count calories?

To have an **effective fat loss program**, it's important to count calorie intake and output. This way, you can achieve your goals easier. It also encourages **proper weight management** strategies.

### Calorie intake

#### 1. Take advantage of mobile apps

Now, there are available software applications that use artificial intelligence and food recognition technology to monitor your nutrient intake. You only need to take a picture of your meal, and the app automatically records its calorie content. SmartPlate uses this technology and combines it with a combination of three precise weight scales that allow for easy and accurate portion control.

### 2. Write down everything you eat each day

If you want to take the traditional route, you can also write journal entries of your daily food intake. Remember to keep track of the food you eat and the liquids you consume. It's advisable to write the food you eat immediately after every meal. This approach helps you become aware of your eating habits.



## How to count calories?

## Calorie intake

#### 3. Know the calorie content of food products

Fortunately, the Food and Drug Administration requires food manufacturers to include nutrition labels in their products. You can usually find the calorie content, the total amount of carbohydrates, and other essential information at the back of a food product's container.

You can also search for vegetables, meat products, and fruits' calorie content, especially when preparing your meals. It then allows you to plan your meals and manage eating habits.



### 4. Use our portion control plate

SmartPlate includes a portion control plate, a type of kitchenware that informs people about food portion sizes. It features partitions for different types of food, such as vegetables, fruits, grains, and meat or seafood. Our tool helps you achieve your ideal fat and muscle percentage for your body.

## How to count calories?

## Calorie output

#### 1. Do the proper form and do not overdo your workout

Proper weight management is achieved through a combination of exercise and a healthy diet. Make sure to execute the correct form when exercising and take note of the exact time. In effect, you can accurately document your calorie output.

#### 2. Log your daily physical activity

It's helpful to keep a journal of your physical activities. This habit can motivate you to achieve your weight goals. Remember to write down your exercise regimen immediately after a workout for accuracy. You could also take your weight and monitor changes as you go along.





## Accurate Portion Control vs Portion Distortion

Most people understand the **concept of portion** control but few can implement it properly, and here's why: When people scale back on portions we tend to scale back on nutritionally confusing foods, such as nuts that are calorie-dense yet can offer other nutritional benefits. Or, we reduce our intake of foods that might actually be the healthiest because we don't know how to incorporate them into our diet.

SmartPlate removes portion distortion from the equation so your can focus on eating foods that are ideal for your needs.





## Solution, solution, solution

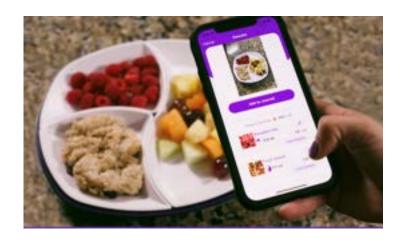
Here's the deal: if you don't know how to calculate your daily calorie budget /macros...You don't have to.

You don't NEED to do it on your own.

Let **SmartPlate** do the calculation of calories for you and create a daily custom plan based on your favorite foods, lifestyle, age, and body goals.

You don't need to be a "techie person" to use the best food recognition technology. SmartPlate is super easy to use. Everything is done for you!

As long as you are following your personalized plan, as long as you eat within your daily calorie "budget" and hit your macros - protein, carbs, fat - target (goal) - you are set for success.





## Solution, solution, solution

#### **EASY**

And let's be honest, we're all taking pictures of our food these days anyway!

#### **FAST**

it saves you time! It takes only 5 seconds to identify and register your meal in the digital journal.

Everything is done for you! Automatically

#### **ACCURATE**

So no more guessing!

**No more** manually logging your food (goodbye, MyFitnessPal) **No more** boring journaling (goodbye, notebook) **No more** inaccurate apps (most of them are wrong up to 70%)

All nutritional information can be shared with your fitness coach or synced with any wearable device.





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What we eat, and how much we eat, is 100% in our control.

Life is all about small weekly progressions replacing bad habits with good habits.

Our goal is to simplify the process for you.

SmartPlate includes EVERYTHING you need and want to know about nutrition that works for YOU.



# Achieve a healthy body composition with SmartPlate

Calorie counting and portion control are widely used methods to lose weight and achieve an ideal body-fat percentage. Combine this strategy with a healthy diet and regular exercise and you can surely improve your health and fitness level in no time.

Explore our website to learn more about the <u>SmartPlate</u> technology that makes calorie counting easy!



