

Low Carbohydrate Diet Traffic Light System

Making it simple to personalise a low carbohydrate diet

Use the traffic light system in this resource to follow a low carbohydrate diet. The majority of the food you eat should come from the green lists. These foods are lower in carbohydrate.

The protein and fat content of foods are also included. Use this information to personalise your food choices for your specific needs.

In this resource

Sheet 1: Foods that are higher in protein and/or fat **Sheet 2:** Foods that are low or very low in protein

Sheet 1: Foods that are higher in protein and/or fat

Eat mostly from the green lists to keep carbohydrate intake low. With a low carbohydrate diet most people can eat as much protein as they like. Some people may need to limit their fat intake to achieve their weight loss goals (see triangles).

Enjoy		
Egg white		
Non-oily fish	Crab (white meat)	King prawns
Shrimps Standard prawns Lobster Shell fish	Scallops Squid Chicken & turkey (light meat)	Venison Tripe Quorn
Mussels Ham Lean beef Lean pork	Chicken & turkey (dark meat) Rabbit Kidney	Liver Heart
Gammon Back bacon (fat trimmed)	Beef steak Pork Poultry with skin	Pheasant
Whole eggs Half fat cheddar Oily fish	Crab (brown meat) Ham, gammon	Lamb Duck Oxtail
△ Cheese △ Bacon	△ Fatty cuts meat △ Tongue	
△ Most nuts	Δ Pate	
△ Cream △ Crème fraiche	△ Sour cream △ Olives	
Δ Fats Δ Butter Δ Lard	△ Dripping △ Olive oil (Avoid vegetable oi	ls)
	Egg white Non-oily fish Shrimps Standard prawns Lobster Shell fish Mussels Ham Lean beef Lean pork Gammon Back bacon (fat trimmed) Whole eggs Half fat cheddar Oily fish A Cheese A Bacon A Most nuts A Cream A Crème fraiche A Fats A Butter	Egg white Non-oily fish Crab (white meat) Shrimps Scallops Standard prawns Lobster Chicken & turkey Shell fish Chicken & turkey (light meat) Mussels Chicken & turkey (dark meat) Lean beef Rabbit Lean pork Kidney Gammon Beef steak Pork Poultry with skin Whole eggs Crab (brown meat) Half fat cheddar Oily fish Ham, gammon A Cheese A Fatty cuts meat A Bacon A Tongue A Most nuts A Pate A Cream A Crème fraiche A Dripping A Butter A Dripping A Olive oil

		Enjoy some	9	
Higher protein content				
		Tofu Soya		
nt		Δ Greek yogurt (plain) Δ Houmous Δ Avocado	△ Pumpkin seeds △ Melon seeds △ Sunflower seeds △ Peanuts	△ Cashew nuts △ Pistachio nuts
Higher fat content	0	△ Coconut		

Legumes	Lentils Chickpeas	Beans (aduki, mu pinto, blackeye,
	Green Peas	haricot, red kidne
Dairy and alternatives:	Quark Fromage frais Yoghurt	Cow's milk Soya milk
Dark chocolate (80% or greater cocoa)	

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Sheet 2: Foods that are low or very low in protein

Eat mostly from the green lists to keep carbohydrate intake low. Some people may need to minimise foods in the amber lists to achieve their health goals.

Carbohydrate content (per 100g food)

Enjoy

Konjac Mushrooms	<0.1g 0.3g
Celery Cucumber Lettuce Artichoke Kale Pak Choi Spinach Spring greens Asparagus Courgette Aubergine Pumpkin Celeriac Leeks Broccoli Tomatoes Cranberries Cauliflower Brussel sprouts Mange-tout Bell Peppers Chillies Cabbage	1g 1g 1g 1g 2g 2g 2g 2g 2g 2g 3g 3g 3g 4g 4g 4g 4g 4g

Enjoy some

Eat in smaller amounts

Melon	7g
Apricots	8g
Beetroot	8g
Peaches	8g
Pomegranate	8g
Onions	8g
Orange	8g
Butternut squash	8g
Sweetcorn	8g
Blueberries	9g
Gooseberries	9g
Nectarine	10g
Apples	10g
Pineapple	11g
Parsnips	12g

Minimise or avoid

Cherries Grapes Carrots Potatoes Sweet potato	15g 17g 20g 20g 20g
Bananas	20g

Avoid

Avoid all foods that are made from flours, refined carbohydrates, or are sugary. All cakes, pastries, biscuits, crackers, sweets, chocolate (with less than 80% cocoa content), ice-creams, breakfast bars, sauces with natural or added sugar, fruit juices, sugar sweetened drinks, honey, jams, syrups.

Whole wheat pasta (cooked) Pearl barley Yam Plantain Rice (all types) cooked White pasta (cooked) Cassava	28g 28g 28g 28g 30g 32g 33g
Bread (all types)	50g
Quinoa	55g
Dried dates	58g
Raisins	63g
Dried fruit	63g
Crispbread (rye)	63g
Flour (grain, all types)	70g
Porridge	70g
Sultanas	70g
Currants	70g
Breakfast cereals (all types)	80-90g