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# A Guide to Eating Gluten-Free

*Cutting gluten out of your diet may seem difficult and restrictive. Fortunately, there are many healthy and delicious foods that are naturally gluten-free. These include fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry, fish and seafood, dairy products, beans, legumes, and nuts.*

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## *Grains, Flours, and Starches*

Many grains and starches are naturally gluten-free, and products made with them (breads, pasta, crackers, etc.) can be incorporated into a gluten-free diet. However, some grains and starches contain gluten and must be avoided by individuals with certain health conditions. Use the following list to help guide your eating and shopping choices while following a gluten-free food plan.

### *Gluten-Free*

Amaranth  
Arrowroot  
Bean flours (garbanzo, fava, Romano, etc.)  
Buckwheat, buckwheat groats (kasha)  
Cassava flour  
Chia seeds  
Corn (maize), cornmeal  
Flax, flax meal  
Hominy  
Manioc flour  
Mesquite flour  
Millet  
Montina flour  
Nut flours and meals (almond, coconut, hazelnut, etc.)  
Oats (gluten-free)\*  
Pea flour  
Potato flour, potato starch  
Quinoa  
Rice (all), rice bran  
Sago  
Sorghum flour  
Soy flour  
Tapioca flour  
Teff  
Yucca

### *Gluten-Containing*

Barley  
Bulgar (bulgur)  
Cereal binding  
Chapatti flour (atta)  
Couscous  
Kinkel  
Durum  
Einkorn  
Emmer  
Farina  
Farrow  
Fu  
Gluten, gluten flour  
Graham flour  
Kamut  
Malt (malt beverages, extract, flavoring, syrup, vinegar, etc.)  
Matzoh meal  
Oats (oat bran, oat syrup)\*  
Orzo  
Rye  
Seitan ("wheat meat")  
Semolina  
Spelt  
Textured vegetable protein (typically contains gluten)  
Triticale  
Wheat, all varieties (bran, germ, starch)

\*Gluten-free oats have a similar structure to gluten-containing grains. Also, they may be contaminated with gluten-containing grains during processing. Because of these factors, gluten-free oats may cause negative symptoms in some patients. Those with celiac disease and gluten intolerance should use caution when consuming oats.

## *Gluten-Free Substitutes*

Gluten-free alternatives to typical gluten-containing foods are now widely available in most grocery stores. This makes eating a gluten-free diet less of a hassle. But keep in mind that many products made with gluten-free alternatives include additives and fillers that help mimic the texture of gluten-containing products you're used to eating. Rather than relying on gluten-free convenience foods, it is important to base your diet around naturally gluten-free foods like fruits, vegetables, and other foods listed above.

The following foods may contain hidden sources of gluten. Read labels carefully when shopping, and ask restaurant staff to confirm that foods have not been dusted with flour or cross-contaminated in deep fryers.

- Brown rice syrup (made with barley enzymes)
- Candy, candy bars
- Cheesecake filling
- Eggs prepared in restaurants (sometimes include pancake batter)
- Energy bars
- French fries
- Granola bars
- Marinades
- Meat substitutes (vegetarian burgers, vegetarian sausage, imitation bacon, imitation seafood, etc.)
- Multi-grain or "artisan" tortillas and tortilla chips
- Pizza, gluten-free (restaurants offering gluten-free crusts do not always keep gluten-free items separate from the rest of the kitchen)
- Potato chips
- Pre-seasoned meats
- Processed lunch meats
- Salad dressings
- Self-basting poultry
- Soup
- Soy sauce
- Starch or dextrin (in meat or poultry products)
- Tater tots

### *Tips for Buying and Storing Gluten-Free Foods*

- Read labels. Remember that “wheat-free” is not the same thing as “gluten-free.” When in doubt, only purchase products with the certified gluten-free label.
- Read ingredient lists for any processed or packaged foods you buy, especially any foods that are cream-based. Wheat is often used in these products as a thickener.
- Many personal care products and nutritional supplements contain gluten. Be sure to choose brands that are gluten-free.
- Many gluten-free breads and pastas are stored in the refrigerated or frozen sections in the grocery store.
- If you can’t find gluten-free grains or products in your regular grocery store, try looking in a specialty or health food store.
- Do not purchase gluten-free grains from the bulk section of the grocery store unless they are kept in a separate area from gluten-containing grains. The possibility for cross-contamination with gluten is much higher when gluten-containing and gluten-free grains are sold side by side.
- If not everyone in your household follows a gluten-free diet, store all gluten-free products in a separate cabinet or a separate shelf. Keep gluten-free foods on the top shelves away from gluten-containing foods on the lower shelves. Use separate toasters and pans, if necessary. This will help you avoid cross contamination.
- When purchasing beers, choose gluten-free brands that are made from gluten-free grains. Some gluten-free beers are made from gluten-containing grains that have been mechanically separated, and these beers may include up to 10 parts per million (10 ppm) of gluten per bottle. If gluten-free beer is not available, opt for cider, wine, or distilled spirits.



#### REFERENCES

1. Gluten Intolerance Group. Getting Started on a Gluten-Free Diet. <https://gluten.org/2019/12/14/getting-started-on-a-gluten-free-diet/>. Updated December 2020. Accessed April 1, 2020.
2. Celiac Disease Foundation. Sources of Gluten. <https://celiac.org/gluten-free-living/what-is-gluten/sources-of-gluten/>. Accessed April 1, 2020.