



MILK ALTERNATIVES

Milk or milk alternatives are required to meet nutritional needs of older adults as outlined in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025 and to meet Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs). This reference is provided to clarify food items and serving sizes that meet the dairy requirement.

MILK ALTERNATIVES

The daily dairy recommendation for Older Americans is 3 cups of Dairy (or equivalent). Below is a list of 1 cup dairy equivalents. Reduced fat or low-fat choices are recommended.

Fortified soy milk and yogurt with added calcium, vitamin A, and vitamin D are a part of the Dairy Group. This is because their nutritional content is like dairy milk and yogurt.

Other products sold as “milks” but made from plants like almond, rice, coconut, oat, and hemp “milks” may have calcium. But they are not a part of the Dairy Group because their nutrition content is not like dairy milk and fortified soy milk

Amount that Counts as 1 Serving in the Dairy Group		
MILK	Milk, (1%-2%), white and flavored	8oz
	Milk, (skim), white and flavored	8oz
	Milk, (whole), white and flavored	8oz
	Buttermilk, low-fat	8oz
	Evaporated Milk	4oz
	Soy Milk, Calcium Fortified	8oz
	Dry Milk, Reconstituted	8oz
	Lactose Free Milk	8oz
YOGURT	Yogurt, plain, nonfat	8oz
	Yogurt, plain, low-fat	8oz
	Yogurt, soy, plain	8oz
	Yogurt, Greek, plain, low-fat	8oz
	Yogurt, Greek, plain, nonfat	8oz
CHEESE	Hard cheese (cheddar, mozzarella, swiss, parmesan)	1 ½ oz
	Shredded Cheese	1/3 cup
	Processed Cheese (American)	1 oz
	Ricotta Cheese	½ cup
	Cottage Cheese	2 cups
OTHER	Kefir, plain, low-fat	1 cup