### Monounsaturated and Polyunsaturated Fat

#### What They Are

Monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats are found in higher proportions in plants and seafood and are usually **liquid at room temperature**. The exceptions are certain tropical plant oils, such as coconut oil, palm oil, and palm kernel oil (which are high in saturated fat) and partially hydrogenated oils (which contain trans fat).

#### Where They Are Found

**Monounsaturated fats** are found in a variety of foods, including:
- Avocados
- Mayonnaise and oil-based salad dressings
- Nuts (such as almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, and pecans)
- Olives

**Polyunsaturated fats** are found in a variety of foods, including:
- Fish (such as herring, mackerel, salmon, trout, and tuna)
- Mayonnaise and oil-based salad dressings
- Nuts (such as pine nuts and walnuts)
- Seeds (such as pumpkin and sesame seeds)
- Soft margarine (liquid, spray, and tub)
- Vegetable oils (such as canola, olive, peanut, and safflower oils)

#### What They Do

- Like all dietary fats, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats provide calories and help the body absorb certain vitamins, cushion and insulate the body, and support many body processes.
- Monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats contribute vitamin E to the diet.
- Polyunsaturated fat is a source of two essential fats. These fats are considered essential because they are required for normal body functioning, but they cannot be made by the body and must be obtained from food. Essential fats play a role in many body processes, including immune and nervous system function, blood clotting, and blood pressure regulation.

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**Nutrition Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
<th>Calories 300</th>
<th>Calories from Fat 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fat</strong></td>
<td>5g</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturated Fat</td>
<td>1.5g</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans Fat</td>
<td>0g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyunsaturated Fat</td>
<td>1.5g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monounsaturated Fat</td>
<td>1g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cholesterol</strong></td>
<td>30mg</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sodium</strong></td>
<td>430mg</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Carbohydrate</strong></td>
<td>55g</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietary Fiber</td>
<td>6g</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugars</td>
<td>23g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protein</strong></td>
<td>14g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your Daily Values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calories</th>
<th>Total Fat</th>
<th>Saturated Fat</th>
<th>Cholesterol</th>
<th>Sodium</th>
<th>Total Carbohydrate</th>
<th>Dietary Fiber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>Less than 25g</td>
<td>Less than 7g</td>
<td>Less than 300mg</td>
<td>Less than 2,400mg</td>
<td>55g</td>
<td>25g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>Less than 30g</td>
<td>Less than 9g</td>
<td>Less than 375mg</td>
<td>Less than 3,000mg</td>
<td>55g</td>
<td>30g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats can reduce the risk of developing cardiovascular disease when eaten in place of saturated fat.

[http://www.fda.gov/nutritioneducation](http://www.fda.gov/nutritioneducation)
Health Facts

- When eaten in place of saturated fat, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats can lower the levels of total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL or “bad”) cholesterol in the blood — which, in turn, can reduce the risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in both men and women in the U.S.
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends consuming less than 10% of your calories per day from saturated fat by replacing saturated fat with monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats.
- Although monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats can have a beneficial effect on your health, they are still a concentrated source of calories. Therefore, they should be eaten in place of saturated fat (rather than added to the diet) while staying within recommended limits for calories and total dietary fat.

Action-Steps

For Replacing Saturated Fat with Monounsaturated and Polyunsaturated Fats in Your Diet

Use the Nutrition Facts Label as your tool for replacing saturated fat with monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. The Nutrition Facts Label on food and beverage packages shows the amount in grams (g) and the Percent Daily Value (%DV) of total fat and saturated fat in one serving of the food.

Food manufacturers may voluntarily list the amount in grams (g) per serving of monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat on the Nutrition Facts Label (under Total Fat), but they are required to list monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat if a statement is made on the package labeling about the health effects or the amount of monounsaturated fat or polyunsaturated fat (for example, “high” or “low”) contained in the food.

☐ Cook and bake with liquid oils instead of solid fats (such as butter, lard, and shortening).
☐ Choose oils that are higher in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats (such as sunflower oil and olive oil), and avoid oils that are higher in saturated fat (such as coconut, palm, and palm kernel oils).
☐ Switch from stick margarine to soft margarine (liquid, spray, or tub).
☐ Try fish and plant sources of protein (such as soy products and unsalted nuts and seeds) in place of some meats and poultry.
☐ Sprinkle slivered nuts on salads instead of bacon bits, or snack on a small handful of unsalted nuts or seeds rather than chips or salty snack foods.
☐ Instead of using creamy salad dressings, make your own flavorful dressings with vinegar and oil (such as flaxseed, olive, or sesame oils).
☐ When eating out, ask which fats are being used to prepare your meal. You can also request to see nutrition information, which is available in many chain restaurants.