

## About

## Bento Boxes

Bento boxes are a type of food container that originated in Japan and are often described as Japanese lunch boxes. They are used to pack single portions of balanced meals that typically consist of a starch, a protein, and some side dishes. Bento boxes have dividers or compartments to separate foods that are put directly into the boxes without extra packaging. Bentos are a convenient and healthy way to enjoy food on the go.


Rules for success:

1. Limit your condiments. Avoid or use the lowest calorie versions. This includes marinades, etc..
2. Try to start using the bento boxes for lunch and dinner for 2 weeks.
3. Keep breakfast simple.
4. Add $0-2$ snacks as needed.
5. Eat ALL the veggies to help this work.
6. Drink at least 2 L of water daily, more is better for the first 2 weeks.
7. Keep it really, really, really simple at the beginning. Consider prepping a day or more at a time if you like to cook.

# Bento Box Kickstart 

This is a super simple way to start getting results right away without being hungry while eating whole foods with minimal prep.

STEP Get your bento boxes!

STEP Review food list to be clear on what types of foods go in each box.

STEP Gather meal ideas that work well with bento boxes. See page 5 meal combination ideas for a great start.

STEP Use bento boxes to simplify meal prep and regulate portions.

## Bento Food List

| NON-STARCHY VEGETABLES | Water chestnuts |
| :---: | :---: |
| Don't worry about the carbs from these foods | Watercress |
| for most easting philosophies | PROTEINS |
| Artichoke | Most of the calories come from protein |
| Arugula | Cottage cheese |
| Asparagus | Ricotta cheese |
| Bamboo shoots | Greek yogurt |
| Beets (cubed) | Egg |
| Bok choy | Fish/shellfish: halibut, herring, mackerel, salm- |
| Broccoflower | on, sardines, tuna, etc |
| Broccoli | Meat: beef, buffalo, elk, lamb, venison, other |
| Brussel sprouts | wild game, etc |
| Cabbage | Poultry (skinless): chicken, Cornish hen, duck, |
| Carrots | pheasant, turkey, etc |
| Cauliflower | Natto |
| Celeriac root | Spirulina |
| Celery | Tempeh |
| Chard/Swiss chard | Tofu |
| Chervil | Powder (check label for 1 serving $=7 \mathrm{~g}$ ) |
| Chinese cabbage | Low-fat cheese |
| Chives |  |
| Cilantro | CARBS |
| Cucumbers | Most of the calories come from carbs in these |
| Daikon radishes | foods |
| Eggplant | Black beans |
| Endive | Edamame |
| Escarole | Green peas |
| Fennel | Hummus |
| Fermented vegetables (Kimchi, pickles, sauer- | Refried beans |
| kraut, etc) | Acorn squash |
| Garlic | Butternut squash |
| Green beans | Plantain |
| Greens: beet, collard, kale, turnip, etc | Potato: purple, red, sweet, yellow, mashed |
| Horseradish | Root vegetables: parsnip, rutabaga |
| Jicama | Yam |
| Kohlrabi | Apple |
| Leeks | Applesauce |
| Lettuce, all | Apricots |
| Microgreens | Banana |
| Mushrooms | Blackberries |
| Okra | Blueberries |
| Onions | Cherries |
| Parsley | Grapefruit |
| Peppers, all | Grapes |
| Radicchio | Kiwi |
| Radishes | Mango |
| Salsa | Mellon: all |
| Scallions | Nectarine |
| Sea vegetables | Orange |
| Shallots | Papaya |
| Snap peas/Snow peas | Peach |
| Spinach | Pear |
| Sprouts, all | Persimmon |
| Squash: spaghetti, yellow, zucchini, etc | Pineapple |
| Tomato | Plums |
| Turnips | Pomegranate seeds |

Raspberries
Strawberries
Tangerines
Amaranth
Buckwheat/Kasha
Millet
Oats: rolled, steel cut
Quinoa
Rice: basmati, black, brown, purple, red, wild
Sorghum
Teff
Barley
Bulgar
Couscous
Kamut
Semolina
Spelt
Dairy milk
Dairy alternatives: almond, coconut, flaxseed, oat, soy, etc...

## FATS

Calories are mostly from fat from these foods
Almonds
Brazil nuts
Cashews
Chia seeds
Flaxseed
Hazelnuts
Hemp seeds
Macadamias
Nut and seed butters
Peanuts
Pecans
Pine nuts
Pistachios
Pumpkin seeds
Sesame seeds
Soy nuts
Sunflower seeds
Walnut halves
Avocado
Butter
Dark chocolate (70\% or higher cocoa)
Olives: black, green, kalamato
Cooking Oils: avocado, butter, coconut,
grapeseed, extra virgin olive, rice, sesame
Salad Oils: almond, avocado, grapeseed,
hempseed, extra virgin olive, pumpkin seed, rice bran, safflower, sesame, sunflower, walnut

## Bento Building Blocks

## Large container: non starchy veggies

4 cups of non-starchy vegetables (salads, frozen or fresh veggies. Raw or cooked fine).
Large container examples:

1. Salad greens (easiest)
2. Chopped raw veggies (easy)
3. Roast a bag of frozen veggies like broccoli-cauliflower-pepper mix (intermediate)
4. Collard green roll ups (difficult)(http://goop.com/recipes/collard-roll-ups-with-coconutcurry-kale/

## Medium container: protein

1 cup of protein. Hard boiled eggs go great here. So do previously cooked/leftover meat/fish/fowl.
Medium container examples:

1. Hard-boiled eggs
2. Leftover meat/fish/fowl from dinner
3. Canned chicken
4. Greek yogurt

## Small container: carbs

1/2 cup. Let's go for whole grains, tolerated fruits, sweet potatoes and beans here. These are mostly called "resistant starches" and include more fiber for your happy digestive tract.
Small container ideas:

1. Hummus
2. Whole grains like rice, quinoa etc... (see attached "skip the parsley" recipe)
3. Fruit as tolerated
4. Sweet potatoes and other starchier veggies
5. Lentil/bean combinations are great to make ahead like three bean salads, cowboy caviar etc... $=$

## So, how can I make a meal out of this on the fly?

Some example combinations (let your imagination run wild. These are just for ideas):

1. Raw Snacker: Chopped veggies in the large container, plain greek yogurt in the medium size container (mix with herbs like dill if desired) and fruit in the small container
2. Leftovers: Fill large container ( 4 cups) of bento box with vegetables. 1 cup container: leftover meat/fish/fowl from dinner. $1 / 2$ cup container: all the sweet potato that can fit
3. Tex-mex box: Fill large container with shredded lettuce and cabbage 1 cup container: pinto beans and salsa mixed $1 / 2$ cup container: corn tortillas
4. Mediterranean: Fill large container with salad greens and avocado. 1 cup container: 1 HB egg; $1 / 2$ cup white cannellini beans (limit 2 per day)
5. Brunch box: Fill large container with spinach. 1 cup container: quiche; $1 / 2$ cup container: tolerated fruit
6. SUPER FAST BOX: Prewashed bagged lettuce, half a lemon for dressing, rotisserie chicken, crackers

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# Weekly <br> Plan \& Goals 

## Date

NOTES

| $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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NOTES
Plan

Goals
© SUN
« MON
$\diamond$ TUE
$\diamond$ WED
$\diamond$ THU

FRI

SAT

Shopping List:


Learn more about our nutritional services online at LWell.com or call to schedule an appointment today at 833-516-0454.

