

3-Day Food and Activity Journal

Use this journal as a tool to help you meet your eating goals. When you review your journal, you can see the progress you've made, or you may decide to make new goals. Please see the other side for instructions about how to use this food journal.

Meal	Day 1: _____	Day 2: _____	Day 3: _____
Breakfast (First Meal)			
Snack			
Lunch (Second Meal)			
Snack			
Dinner (Third Meal)			
Snack			
Activity			

How to fill in this journal

- Write down everything you eat and drink. You may want to record **one weekday (or workday) and one Saturday or Sunday (or day off)**.
- Include:
 - How much food you ate. See the suggestions below to estimate portion sizes. If the food comes in a package, just write down the package size. Example: 175 mL container of yogurt.
 - How the food is cooked (for example: fried, baked, boiled, barbecued)
 - Anything you add to food, during or after cooking. Example: cream, sugar, oil, butter, jam, syrup, ketchup or other sauces, dressings or condiments.
 - Details about restaurant foods, fast foods, or packaged foods (for example: McDonald's Big Mac[®] or KFC[®] chicken).
- Measure the food you eat for a day or two to help you understand how much you eat and drink. Use measuring cups and spoons.
- Write down all your **activities** for the day. Include planned activities (going for a walk or swim) and activities of daily life (housework or grocery shopping). Comments may include where you ate, your mood, or stress level.
- Use more paper if you need to or photocopy the other side of this handout.
- Read over your journals to see what is working well and what you may want to change.
- Keep on tracking. Use this tool to help you meet your goals, or to make new goals.

To estimate portion sizes, use the guidelines below:

This amount of food: ...is about the same size as:

2½ oz (75g) of meat	a hockey puck
1½ oz (50 g) of cheese	2 white erasers
1 cup (250 mL)	a baseball or fist
½ cup (125 mL)	a hockey puck
1 medium piece of fruit	a tennis ball
2 Tbsp (30 mL)	1 golf ball
¼ cup (60 mL)	2 golf balls
1 tsp (5 mL) – use for butter, margarine, mayonnaise	a thumb tip or one die

Example of how to fill in your food journal:

Meal	Day 1: Thursday	Day 2: Saturday
Breakfast (First Meal)	1 cup Bran Flakes [®] with 1 tsp sugar and ½ cup 1% milk 1 cup coffee black 1 slice whole wheat toast with 2 tsp soft margarine	1 egg fried in 1 tsp butter with 3 strips of bacon 2 slices whole wheat toast with 2 tsp soft margarine 2 cups tea (chamomile)
Snack	1 carrot muffin - Tim Hortons [®] 1 medium black coffee - Tim Hortons [®]	1 medium apple
Activity	Stressful day at work	30 minute walk