

Dr. Friedman's 3V3NSSF Diet (3 vegetables three times a day plus no starch, sugar or fried food diet)

Dr. Friedman has been running the Obesity Clinic at MLK Ambulatory Care Clinic in Los Angeles and has come up with a simplified strategy for weight loss for everyone who is serious about losing weight. This approach is to have a simplified food guide that everyone can follow that stresses eating healthy foods, especially vegetables, to fill you up and avoiding foods that have high caloric load. The hallmark of this diet is the three servings of vegetables (a serving is 8 ounces, or a handful) with each meal- breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Yes, breakfast! The philosophy is the vegetables are low in calories and provide you excellent sources of minerals and vitamins, give you fiber and fill you up and you will not need to eat much higher calorie foods.

In the past, people have shied away from vegetables due to the fact they required a lot of preparation or went bad readily. Now vegetables are often pre-cut and washed and come in a large variety of preparations and readily available in stores like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. Frozen vegetables are excellent and convenient and even canned vegetables are good. Vegetables can be stir-fried with vegetable spray ("PAM"), canola spray or olive spray or soy sauce (as long as you are not on a low salt diet). Vegetables can also be flavored with spices, soy sauces, or tomato or marinara sauce. Vegetables can be made into soups, as well.

The vegetables Dr. Friedman recommends include:

#Alfalfa/ Bean Sprouts	*Okra
*Asparagus	+Onions (especially Vidalia onions)
Artichokes	Parsnips
*Artichoke hearts	##+Peppers
+Beets	#Pickles
+Bok choy	##+Peas
##Broccoli	Pumpkin
*Brussels sprouts	Salads (careful about the dressings and additions)
#Cabbage	Sauerkraut
##+Carrots	+Snap peas
*Cauliflower	##+Snow peas
##+Celery	Squash-butternut/winter/spaghetti
Collard or mustard greens	#Spinach
#Cucumbers	+Stir-fry vegetables
Eggplant	+#Tomatoes
*Green beans	Turnips
Jicama	V8-or other vegetable juices
Leeks	Water chestnuts
#Lettuce	*Zucchini
+#Mushrooms	

*Frozen-perfect for micro-waving

#Fresh-can be eaten raw

+Cut-up (at stores like Trader Joes) and perfect for stir-frying or microwaving

The only vegetables not recommended are potatoes and corn. Sweet potatoes and yams can be eaten in moderation.

For strict weight loss, Dr. Friedman advises against eating anything with sugar and also to be on a no-starch diet. Sugar includes honey, sucrose, fructose, molasses or high fructose corn syrup. Ingredients with sugar include sodas (except diet soda), cookies, candy, ice cream and cakes. He also recommends looking at the ingredients of sauces and dressings. If it has sugar or fructose in the first four ingredients, avoid it.

Additionally, Dr. Friedman recommends avoiding starches. For most patients, this needs to be strict to ensure proper weight loss. Starches include all bread, tortillas, pasta, rice, potatoes, and corn. Dr. Friedman does not feel there is much difference between whole grains such as brown rice and regular starches such as white rice, nor is there any difference between whole grain bread and white bread. After initial weight loss for about two months, patients could go on to a moderate amount of whole grains such as whole wheat bread or brown rice.

In addition, after the patient eats their three servings of vegetables with each meal, they can consume a moderate amount of protein, fruit, or dairy products, including milk. The dairy product should be as low in fat as possible. Skim milk would be recommended over whole milk, nonfat yogurt over regular yogurt, etc. Dr. Friedman also advises against fried foods and consumption of alcohol beverage except in small amounts.

With this lifestyle modification (it's not really a diet as it should be continued for a lifetime), weight loss of one pound a week is expected. Most people report more energy and less brain fog on this diet. Give it a try!