

The Slow Carb Diet

Excerpted from Tim Ferris' "4 Hour Body"

Check out this simple (not all fun) eating plan designed for healthy weightloss. It has similar principles to the Paleolithic Diet (a strict version), but with a cheat day to keep it fun and motivating! An added suggestion would be to be sure to weight yourself first thing every morning, after going to the bathroom to track progress and stay focused. Give it a try!

5 simple rules to follow

Rule #1: Avoid "white" carbohydrates (or anything that can be white).

Rule #2: Eat the same few meals over and over again.

Rule #3: Don't drink calories.

Rule #4: Don't eat fruit.

Rule #5: Take one day off per week and go nuts.



#1: AVOID "WHITE" CARBOHYDRATES

Avoid any carbohydrate that is, or can be, white. The following foods are prohibited; except for within 30 minutes of finishing a resistance-training workout like those described in the "From Geek to Freak" or "Occam's Protocol" chapters: all bread, rice (including brown), cereal, potatoes, pasta, tortillas, and fried food with breading. If you avoid eating the aforementioned foods and anything else white, you'll be safe.

#2: EAT THE SAME FEW MEALS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

The most successful dieters, regardless of whether their goal is muscle gain or fat-loss, eat the same few meals over and over again. There are 47,000 products in the average U.S. grocery store, but only a handful of them won't make you fat.

#3: DON'T DRINK CALORIES.

Drink massive quantities of water and as much unsweetened tea, coffee (with no more than two tablespoons of cream; I suggest using cinnamon instead), or other no-calorie/low-calorie beverages as you like. Do not drink milk (including soy milk), normal soft drinks, or fruit juice. Limit diet soft drinks to no more than 16 ounces per day if you can, as the aspartame can stimulate weight gain.

I'm a wine fanatic and have one to two glasses of red wine almost every evening. It doesn't appear to have any negative impact on my rate of fat-loss. Red wine is by no means required for this diet to work, but it's 100% allowed (unlike white wines and beer, both of which should be avoided). Up to two glasses of red per night, no more.

#4: DON'T EAT FRUIT.

Humans don't need fruit six days a week, and they certainly don't need it year-round. If your ancestors were from Europe, for example, how much fruit did they eat in the winter 500 years ago? Think they had Florida oranges in December? Not a chance. But you're still here, so the lineage somehow survived.

The only exceptions to the no-fruit rule are tomatoes and avocados, and the latter should be eaten in moderation (no more than one cup or one meal per day). Otherwise, just say no to fruit and its principal sugar, fructose, which is converted to glycerol phosphate more efficiently than almost all other carbohydrates. Glycerol phosphate → triglycerides (via the liver) → fat storage. There are a few biochemical exceptions to this, but avoiding fruit six days per week is the most reliable policy.

#5: TAKE ONE DAY OFF PER WEEK.

I recommend Saturdays as your Dieters Gone Wild (DGW) day. I am allowed to eat whatever I want on Saturdays, and I go out of my way to eat ice cream, Snickers, Take 5, and all of my other vices in excess. I make myself a little sick each Saturday and don't want to look at any junk for the rest of the week.

Welcome to Utopia. There are no limits or boundaries during this day of gluttonous enjoyment. There is absolutely no calorie counting on this diet, on this day or any other. Start the diet at least five days before your designated cheat day. If you choose Saturday, for example, I would suggest starting your diet on a Monday.

Foods That are OK to Eat

Mix and match from the following list, constructing each meal with one pick from each of the three groups. **I've starred the choices that produce the fastest fat-loss for me:**

| Proteins | Legumes | Vegetables |
|--|--|--|
| *Egg whites with 1–2 whole eggs for flavor (or, if organic, 2–5 whole eggs, including yolks) | *Lentils (also called “dal” or “daal”) | *Spinach |
| *Chicken breast or thigh | *Black beans | *Mixed vegetables (including broccoli, cauliflower, or any other cruciferous vegetables) |
| *Beef (preferably grass-fed) | Pinto beans | *Sauerkraut |
| *Fish | Red beans | kimchee (full explanation of these later in “Damage Control”) |
| Pork | Soybeans | Asparagus |
| | | Peas |
| | | Broccoli |
| | | Green beans |

No need to panic you can eat all those wonderful fruits and bread on your cheat day! **Is it Really This Easy? Start your diet at least five days before the day your appointed cheat day!**

Eat as much as you like of the above food items, but keep it simple. Pick three or four meals and repeat them. Almost all restaurants can give you a salad or vegetables in place of French fries, potatoes, or rice. Surprisingly, I have found Mexican food (after swapping out rice for vegetables) to be one of the cuisines most conducive to the Slow-Carb Diet. If you have to pay an extra \$1–3 to substitute at a restaurant, consider it your six-pack tax, the nominal fee you pay to be lean.

Most people who go on “low”-carbohydrate diets complain of low energy and quit because they consume insufficient calories. A half-cup of rice is 300 calories, whereas a half-cup of spinach is 15 calories! Vegetables are not calorically dense, so it is critical that you add legumes for caloric load.

Eating more frequently than four times per day might be helpful on higher-carb diets to prevent gorging, but it’s not necessary with the ingredients we’re using. Eating more frequent meals also appears to have no enhancing effect on resting metabolic rate, despite claims to the contrary. Frequent meals can be used in some

Other tips

The five rules above make up the bulk of the diet. However, Ferriss offers these additional tips:

- eat within 30-60 minutes of waking
- get at least 20g of protein per meal, especially at breakfast
- drink sufficient water, especially on your “cheat” day
- avoid artificial sweeteners
- don’t overdo with exercise