

Want satisfying, delicious meals that won't pack on the pounds' Try these 5 dinner recipes and our easy slim-down meal plan.

If you're tired of hearing diet advice to eat less, we have news you're going to love. "By picking foods that are naturally lower in calories but larger in volume, you can eat a lot more food without worrying about what it will do to your waistline," says Barbara Rolls, Ph.D., author of *The Ultimate Volumetrics Diet* (William Morrow, 2012). In fact, we tend to choose our food based on volume—not calorie count—and the quantity of food we eat each day stays remarkably consistent even though the number of calories we wolf down can vary. So, "lowering your food's calorie density," as researchers call it, is a smart—and healthy—way to satisfy your appetite and cut calories.

These five quick recipes and research-tested tips let you put this concept into practice. Try the big, hearty Buffalo chicken salad (page 6) or the robust spice-rubbed flank steak with mushrooms (page 7), which you'll swear has more than just 309 calories and 3 grams of saturated fat. (It doesn't!) To help you keep calories in check the rest of the day, turn to our handy 5-day slim-down meal plan (page 2). —Karen Ansel, M.S., R.D.

Recipes: David Bonom & Marge Perry Meal Plan: Jim Romanoff

5-Day Slim-Down Meal Plan

If you want to lose weight, following a meal plan is the simplest way to start. This 1,500-calorie-a-day plan (a level at which most people will lose weight) was designed by *EatingWell's* Test Kitchen team and registered dietitians, using the 5 *Weeknights* dinners (*pages 3-7*) plus suggestions for rounding out the day. An added bonus: this plan ensures you're getting enough calcium and fiber and it limits sodium and saturated fat. Plus the menus balance variety and convenience—it keeps your grocery list in check (you buy one bag of clementines and eat them all week; see *page 8*) and the amount of cooking to a minimum (for instance, on Tuesday you make homemade black-eyed pea dip for a snack and then eat the leftovers on other days).

	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	,	THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
BREAKFAST	cup spoon-size shredded wheat cereal cup skim milk cup blueberries	167 83 84	6 oz. nonfat plain Greek yogurt 1½ cups blueberries 1 pear	100 127 103	Egg sandwich: Lightly coat pan wit cooking spray and s scramble 1 large eg top with 2 oz. low-fa Swiss cheese and 2 tomato slices. Ser on 1 multigrain sandwich thin.	fry or Ig; at	1 cup spoon-size shredded wheat cereal 1 cup skim milk 2 clementines	167 83 70	6 oz. nonfat plain Greek yogurt 1 cup blueberries 1 medium banana	100 84 105
	Calories:	334	Calories:	330	Calories:	291	Calories:	320	Calories:	289
MORNING	6 oz. nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt 1 clementine	120 35	1 oz. Cheddar cheese 1 clementine	35	1 pear 1 cup blueberries	103 84	1 medium banana	105	2 Tbsp. unsalted dry- roasted peanuts 2 clementines	107 70
	Calories:	155	Calories:	149	Calories:	187	Calories:	105	Calories:	177
LUNCH	Raita spread: Mix 6 oz. nonfat plai Greek yogurt with 1 cup each chopped tomatoes and cucumber and 1 Tbsp. chopped onion 6 rye crispbreads 1 medium banana	149 143 105	Tuna sandwich: Mix 5 oz. canned chunk light tuna (drained) with ½ avocado (mashed); spread on 1 multi- grain sandwich thin	309	Turkey sandwich: Mix 1 Tbsp. low-fat mayonnaise with 2 chopped sun-dried tomatoes; spread o 1 multigrain sandwi thin. Top with 1 oz. roast turkey breast, low-fat Swiss chees and 2 tomato slices. 1 medium apple	n ch deli 2 oz.	Chef salad: Toss 2 cups mixed salad greens, 6 cherry tomatoes, ½ avocado (diced), 2 oz. deli roast turkey breast, 1 oz. low- fat Swiss cheese with 1 Tbsp. Creamy Garlic Dressing 273 6 oz. nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt 120		Avocado sandwich: Mix 1 Tbsp. low-fat mayonnaise with 2 finely chopped sun-dried tomatoes; spread on 1 multigrain sandwich thin. Top with ½ avocado, 2 oz. low-fat Swiss cheese and 2 tomato slices. 370	
	Calories:	397	Calories:	309	Calories:	383	Calories:	393	Calories:	370
AFTERNOON SNACK	2 Tbsp. unsalted dry- roasted peanuts 1 clementine	107 35	1/4 cup Black-Eyed Pea Dip (p. 4) 12 baby carrots	95 42	¼ cup Black-Eyed Pea Dip 12 baby carrots	95 42	1 oz. Cheddar chees 1 pear	se 114 103	1/4 cup Black-Eyed Pea Dip 12 baby carrots	95 42
	Calories:	142	Calories:	137	Calories:	137	Calories:	217	Calories:	137
DINNER	Side salad: Toss 2 cups mixed salad greens, 6 cherry tomatoes and ½ avocado (diced) with 1 Tbsp. Creamy Garlic	323	Shrimp Fried Rice (p. 4) Side salad: Toss 1 cup fresh spinach with 1 tsp. sesame oil and 2 Tbsp. unsalted dry- roasted peanuts	307	Quick Pasta Bologne (p. 5) 1 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese Side salad: Toss 2 cups spinace ½ cup sliced mush rooms and ¼ cup diced red onion with 1 Tbsp. Creamy Garlic Dressing	414 22 h,	Buffalo Chicken Salad (p. 6) Garlic bread: Rub a 2-inch piece of whole-wheat baguette with 1 cu garlic clove and drizzle with 2 tsp. extra-virgin olive o	ıt	Spice-Rubbed Steal with Sautéed Wild Mushrooms (p. 7) 1 cup wild rice 1 cup steamed Brussels sprouts	
	Calories:	483	Calories:	495	Calories:	479	Calories:	495	Calories:	531
DAILY TOTALS	Calories: 1,511 Sat. Fat: 5 g Fiber: 43 g Sodium: 1,382 mg Calcium: 1,144 mg		Calories: 1,420 Sat. Fat: 12 g Fiber: 38 g Sodium: 1,567 mg Calcium: 934 mg		Calories: 1,477 Sat. Fat: 11 g Fiber: 40 g Sodium: 2,265 mg Calcium: 1,516 mg		Calories: 1,530 Sat. Fat: 14 g Fiber: 31 g Sodium: 2,100 mg Calcium: 1,286 mg		Calories: 1,504 Sat. Fat: 10 g Fiber: 36 g Sodium: 1,439 mg Calcium: 1,055 mg	

Blue indicates a recipe in this plan. a indicates leftovers.





Broth or water instantly adds bulk to your meal for almost no calories. Think about it: ½ cup of black beans has about 115 calories, yet, for the same 115 calories you could slurp an entire cup of black bean soup. Women who ate low-cal soup twice daily for a year lost 50 percent more weight than women who ate the same number of calories in the form of two energy-dense snacks, according to an Obesity Research study. -K.A.

Bean & Barley Soup

hxw h•f h•h



Makes: 4 servings, 2½ cups each Active time: 30 minutes Total: 45 minutes

To make ahead: Refrigerate for up to 3 days or freeze for up to 6 months. Cost per serving: under \$4

This hearty soup tastes like it has simmered for hours, but actually it's quite quick to throw together. Plus it freezes beautifully. If you have cooked barley on hand, omit the quickcooking barley and stir in $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups cooked barley along with the broth in Step 2.

- 4 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 medium fennel bulb, cored and chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 15-ounce can cannellini or other white beans, rinsed
- 1 14-ounce can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 6 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 34 cup quick-cooking barley
- 1 5-ounce package baby spinach (6 cups)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- 1. Heat oil in a Dutch oven over mediumhigh heat. Add onion, fennel, garlic, and basil; cook, stirring frequently, until tender and just beginning to brown, 6 to 8
- 2. Mash $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the beans. Stir the mashed and whole beans, tomatoes, broth and barley into the pot. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the barley is tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in spinach and cook until wilted, about 1 minute. Remove from the heat and stir in cheese and pepper.

Per serving: 323 calories; 7 g fat (2 g sat, 4 g mono); 4 mg cholesterol; 55 g carbohydrate; Og added sugars; 13 g protein; 13 g fiber; 767 mg sodium; 795 mg potassium. Nutrition bonus: Vitamin A (98% daily value), Vitamin C (67% dv), Folate (28% dv), Potassium (23% dv), Calcium (20% dv), Iron (18% dv).

Shrimp Fried Rice

hxw h•f h•h



Makes: 4 servings, 2 cups each Active time: 40 minutes Total: 40 minutes Cost per serving: under \$3

This shrimp fried rice is packed with vegetables and makes 4 generous servings, so you'll need to use a large skillet that is at least 12 inches wide. A large wok also works well. If you have cooked rice on hand, omit Step 1 and add 21/2 cups cooked rice to the pan in Step 5.

1½ cups water

- 1 cup instant brown rice
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce (see Tip)
- 4 teaspoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil
- 4 teaspoons canola oil, divided
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 8 ounces peeled and deveined raw small shrimp (51-60 per pound; see Tip)
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 4 cups stringless snap peas (12 ounces)
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 2 medium carrots, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced
- 4 scallions, chopped
- 1. Combine water and rice in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until the water is absorbed, 10 to 12 minutes. Spread the rice out on a large baking sheet to cool.
- 2. Combine hoisin sauce, soy sauce and sesame oil in a small bowl; set aside.
- 3. Heat 1 teaspoon canola oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add eggs and cook, stirring to help break into smaller pieces, until just set, about 45 seconds. Transfer the egg to a bowl.
- 4. Add another 1 teaspoon canola oil to the skillet and return to medium-high heat. Add shrimp and cook, stirring occasionally, until pink, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 minutes. Transfer the shrimp to the bowl.
- 5. Heat the remaining 2 teaspoons oil in the skillet over medium-high heat. Add ginger and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in snap peas, bell pepper, carrots and scallions; cook, stirring occasionally, until tender-crisp, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in the rice and the reserved egg and shrimp; cook, stirring, until heated through, about 1 minute. Remove from the heat and gently stir in the sauce mixture.

Per serving: 307 calories; 11 g fat (2 g sat, 5 g mono); 165 mg cholesterol; 34 g carbohydrate; 2 g added sugars; 17 g protein; 5 g fiber; 462 mg sodium; 523 mg potassium. Nutrition bonus: Vitamin C (157% daily value), Vitamin A (147% dv), Folate (23% dv),



Magnesium (21% dv), Iron (18% dv), Potassium (15% dv).

Buy shrimp by the "number per pound" (e.g., 21-25 count) your recipe specifies, rather than the general "small," "medium" or "extra-large" sizes. For sustainable shrimp, look for fresh (or frozen) shrimp certified by an independent agency, such as the Marine Stewardship Council. If you can't find certified shrimp, choose wild-caught shrimp from North America.

Look for hoisin sauce, a thick, dark brown, spicy-sweet sauce made from soybeans and a complex mix of spices, in the Asian section of most supermarkets.



Vegetables are loaded with fiber, which automatically lowers the calorie density of your food because your body can't digest it entirely. When South Korean researchers fed women an equal volume of either plain rice or rice with added vegetables, those who feasted on the veggie-filled rice downed 41 percent fewer calories and felt more satisfied afterwards. -K.A.



Puree one 16-oz. can black-eyed peas (rinsed) with 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, 2 tsp. red-wine vinegar, 1 minced garlic clove, 1 tsp. dried thyme and hot sauce to taste. Makes 11/3 cups. Serving size: 1/4 cup.



Incorporating air into foods puffs them up. "Because airy foods are bigger, they trick your brain into thinking you're eating more," says Barbara Rolls. The proof: researchers at Penn State University gave volunteers a similar-size snack of dense Cheetos Crunchy or more voluminous Cheetos Puffs. Those who munched on the puffs ate 70 fewer calories even though they polished off 73 percent more by volume. When possible, opt for airy eats: Cheerios over granola, bread over crackers and tubular pasta like rigatoni in place of spaghetti. -K.A.

Quick Pasta Bolognese

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1 medium onion, finely chopped

3 cloves garlic, minced

(about 3 cups)

1/3 cup dry red wine

½ teaspoon salt

beef

2 medium carrots, finely chopped

2 medium stalks celery, finely chopped

8 ounces whole-wheat rigatoni or penne

8 ounces lean (93% or leaner) ground

1 14-ounce can petite diced tomatoes

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon freshly ground pepper

hxw hf h**y**h



Makes: 4 servings, 1 cup pasta & about 1 cup sauce each Active time: 30 minutes Total: 40 minutes To make ahead: Refrigerate the sauce (Steps 1 & 3) for up to 3 days or freeze for up to 6 months. Cost per serving: under \$2

Who doesn't love pasta with meat sauce? This crowd-pleasing version is a boon for busy cooks—it's ready and on the table in just 40 minutes.

> 1. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion, carrots, celery and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally,

salad: Blend ½ cup

Tbsp. lemon juice, 2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan

sodium soy sauce,

cheese, 2 tsp. reduced-

1 minced clove garlic,

1/4 tsp. salt and a pinch

Makes 1 cup. Serving

size: 1 tablespoon.

of pepper until smooth.

buttermilk, ¼ cup low-fat mayonnaise, 1½

- 2. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to package directions. Drain.
- breaking up with a wooden spoon, until heat to medium-high, add wine and cook until almost evaporated, 1 to 1½ minutes. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste and nutmeg; reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in salt and pepper. Serve the pasta with
- until just tender, 6 to 8 minutes.
- a boil. Add pasta and cook according to 3. Add beef to the vegetables and cook, cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes. Increase







SERVE UP SALAD

Simply adding a serving of salad to your meal can help you eat 11 percent fewer calories, according to a 2012 Appetite study. Stick with voluminous, low-calorie fixings like fresh veggies and leafy greens and limit add-ons like nuts, seeds and cheese. If you'll be making your salad into a main meal, add lean protein, such as skinless chicken, grilled shrimp or salmon, tofu or beans, to help you feel satisfied longer. -K.A.

Buffalo Chicken Salad

hw hf



Makes: 4 servings, 2½ cups salad & 3 oz. chicken each Active time: 35 minutes Total: 35 minutes Cost per serving: under \$3.50

All the flavor of Buffalo wings is packed into this irresistible salad. But unlike wings, you can eat a big serving of this for just 291 calories.

- ½ cup crumbled reduced-fat blue cheese plus ¼ cup, divided
- 6 tablespoons buttermilk
- 4 teaspoons red-wine vinegar, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 3/4-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce, such as Frank's Red Hot
- 8 cups chopped romaine
- 3 large carrots, chopped
- 3 large stalks celery, chopped
- 1 large cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped

- 1. Combine ½ cup blue cheese in a small bowl with buttermilk, 2 teaspoons vinegar and 1/8 teaspoon pepper; mix well, mashing slightly with a fork. Set aside.
- 2. Place chicken in another bowl; sprinkle with flour and the remaining 1/8 teaspoon pepper and toss until coated.
- 3. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until very hot. Add the chicken and cook, turning occasionally, until just cooked through, 6 to 7 minutes. Stir in hot sauce and the remaining 2 teaspoons vinegar and cook, stirring often, until the chicken is coated, about 1 minute.
- 4. Combine lettuce, carrots, celery and cucumber in a large bowl; add the reserved dressing and toss to coat. Divide the salad among 4 plates and top each with an equal portion of chicken and 1 tablespoon each of the reserved blue cheese.

Per serving: 291 calories; 11 g fat (4 g sat, 4 g mono); 75 mg cholesterol; 15 g carbohydrate; 0 g added sugars; 32 g protein; 5 g fiber; 607 mg sodium; 832 mg potassium. Nutrition bonus: Vitamin A (350% daily value), Folate (44% dv), Vitamin C (25% dv), Potassium (24% dv).



Spice-Rubbed Steak with Sautéed Wild Mushrooms

hxw h⊌h



Makes: 4 servings, 3 oz. steak & ½ cup mushrooms each Active time: 40 minutes Total: 40 minutes Cost per serving: under \$5.50

Love this steak rub? Make a double, triple or quadruple batch to keep on hand for chicken and firm fish (swordfish, tuna and salmon) too. Store it in a jar or sealable plastic bag in your spice drawer for an instant dinner solution. We love the flavor of wild mushrooms in this mix, but any type of mushroom will work.

- 2 teaspoons ancho chile powder (see Tip, left)
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon packed dark brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt plus $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper plus 1/8 teaspoon, divided
- 1 pound flank steak, trimmed

- 5 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup chopped shallots
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound assorted wild mushrooms, trimmed and sliced
- ⅓ cup Madeira *or* dry sherry
- ½ cup low-sodium beef broth
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley



TRIM THE FAT

"With twice as many calories per bite as carbs or protein, fat calories add up incredibly quickly," says Rolls. So the more fat on your plate, the less food you can eat without racking up the calories. Keep fat in check by choosing lower-fat options of your favorite foods, such as lean cuts of beef, skinless poultry and nonfat dairy, and trim any visible fat off meat before cooking. -K.A.

- Position oven rack 3 to 4 inches below broiler; preheat broiler to high.
- Coat a broiler pan with cooking spray. Combine chile powder, cumin, brown sugar, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper in a small bowl. Rub the mixture evenly over both sides of steak and place on the prepared pan; let stand at room temperature for about 15 minutes.
- 3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add shallots and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to soften, about 1 minute. Stir in mushrooms and the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms release their liquid and begin to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Pour in Madeira (or sherry) and cook, stirring, until absorbed, about 1 minute. Add broth and cook, stirring occasionally, until almost absorbed, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in parsley and remaining 1/8 teaspoon pepper; cover to keep warm.
- **4.** Broil the steak 4 to 6 minutes per side for medium. Transfer to a clean cutting board and let rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice the steak against the grain and serve with the mushrooms.

Per serving: 309 calories; 13 g fat (3 g sat, 7 g mono); 71 mg cholesterol; 16 g carbohydrate; 1 g added sugars; 29 g protein; 3 g fiber; 591 mg sodium; 969 mg potassium. Nutrition bonus: Zinc (35% daily value), Potassium (26% dv), Iron (17% dv).

Ancho chile powder, made from dried oblano peppers, has a mild, sweet spicy flavor. Look for it in the spice section of well-stocked supermarkets. Other mildly spicy chile powder can be used in its place

5-Day Slim-Down Meal Plan: Shopping List

This list outlines everything you need to make all the recipes for the week (pages 3-7), plus all the sides and snacks for ONE person to follow the plan.

Shop For:		Check Your Pantry For:
Produce	Dry Goods & Bread	Oils, Vinegars & Condiments
Fruit	☐ ¾ cup quick-cooking barley	□ canola oil
☐ 1 medium apple	☐ 1 cup instant brown rice	☐ extra-virgin olive oil
☐ 3 medium bananas	☐ ½ cup wild rice	☐ toasted sesame oil
☐ 4½ cups blueberries	☐ 8 oz. whole-wheat rigatoni or penne	☐ cooking spray
☐ 5 clementines or mandarin oranges	☐ 2 cups spoon-size shredded wheat	☐ red-wine vinegar
□ 2 lemons	cereal	☐ reduced-sodium soy sauce
☐ 3 medium pears	☐ 6 rye crispbreads	☐ hot sauce
•	☐ 4 multigrain sandwich thins	☐ low-fat mayonnaise
Vegetables & Fresh Herbs	☐ 1 whole-wheat baguette	•
☐ 2 avocados		Flavorings
☐ 8 oz. Brussels sprouts	Canned & Bottled Goods	□ salt
☐ 1 lb. baby carrots	□ 1 16-oz. can black-eyed peas	□ pepper
☐ 4 medium carrots	☐ 1 15-oz. can cannellini beans	☐ ancho chile powder
☐ 3 large carrots	☐ 1 14-oz. can fire-roasted diced	☐ dried basil
☐ 1 bunch celery	tomatoes	☐ ground cumin
☐ 2 large cucumbers	☐ 1 14-oz. can petite diced tomatoes	☐ ground nutmeg
☐ 1 head fennel	☐ 4 sun-dried tomatoes packed in oil	☐ dried thyme
☐ 4 cups mixed salad greens	□ 1 5-oz. can chunk light tuna,	
(about 4 oz.)	packed in water	Dry Goods
☐ 1 large head romaine lettuce	☐ 6 cups low-sodium vegetable broth	□ all-purpose flour
☐ 8 oz. cremini mushrooms	☐ 2 cups low-sodium beef broth	☐ brown sugar
☐ 8 oz. shiitake mushrooms	☐ 2 Tbsp. hoisin sauce	
☐ 8 oz. white button mushrooms		Spirits
☐ 1 red onion	Nuts, Seeds & Fruits	☐ dry red wine
☐ 3 white onions	☐ 6 Tbsp. unsalted dry-roasted	☐ Madeira
☐ 1 medium red bell pepper	peanuts	
☐ 1 bunch scallions		Canned & Bottled Goods
☐ 3 medium shallots	Dairy	☐ tomato paste
☐ 12 oz. stringless sugar snap peas	☐ 1 cup buttermilk	
☐ 10 oz. baby spinach	☐ 3 6-oz. containers nonfat plain	Refrigerator Items
☐ 1 pint cherry tomatoes	Greek yogurt	☐ skim milk
☐ 3 medium tomatoes	□ 2 6-oz. containers nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt	□ large eggs
Fresh Herbs & Flavorings	☐ 3 oz. reduced-fat blue cheese	
☐ 2 heads garlic	☐ 2 oz. Cheddar cheese	
☐ 1 2-inch piece ginger	☐ ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese	
☐ 1 bunch parsley	☐ 7 oz. sliced low-fat Swiss cheese	
	Meat & Seafood	
	☐ 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast	
	☐ 3 oz. deli sliced turkey breast	
	☐ 1 lb. flank steak	
	☐ 8 oz. 93%-lean ground beef	
	☐ 8 oz. small raw shrimp	

(51-60 count)