

How to Read a Label for a Milk-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain milk as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word “milk” on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain milk or any of these ingredients:

butter, butter fat, butter oil, butter acid, butter ester(s)	lactulose
buttermilk	milk (<i>in all forms, including condensed, derivative, dry, evaporated, goat's milk and milk from other animals, low fat, malted, milkfat, nonfat, powder, protein, skimmed, solids, whole</i>)
casein	milk protein hydrolysate
casein hydrolysate	pudding
caseinates (<i>in all forms</i>)	Recaldent®
cheese	rennet casein
cottage cheese	sour cream, sour cream solids
cream	sour milk solids
curds	tagatose
custard	whey (<i>in all forms</i>)
diacetyl	whey protein hydrolysate
ghee	yogurt
half-and-half	
lactalbumin, lactalbumin phosphate	
lactoferrin	
lactose	

Milk is sometimes found in the following:

artificial butter flavor	luncheon meat, hot dogs, sausages
baked goods	margarine
caramel candies	nisin
chocolate	nondairy products
lactic acid starter culture and other bacterial cultures	nougat



11781 Lee Jackson Hwy.
Suite 160

Fairfax, VA 22033-3309

Phone: 703-691-3179

Fax: 703-691-2713

Website: www.foodallergy.org

E-mail: faan@foodallergy.org

How to Read a Label for a Soy-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain soy as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word “soy” on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain soy or any of these ingredients:

edamame	soybean (<i>curd, granules</i>)
miso	soy protein
natto	(<i>concentrate, hydrolyzed, isolate</i>)
shoyu	soy sauce
soy (<i>soy albumin, soy cheese, soy fiber, soy flour, soy grits, soy ice cream, soy milk, soy nuts, soy sprouts, soy yogurt</i>)	tamari
soya	tempeh
	textured vegetable protein (<i>TVP</i>)
	tofu

Soy is sometimes found in the following:

Asian cuisine	vegetable gum
vegetable broth	vegetable starch

Keep the following in mind:

- The FDA exempts highly refined soybean oil from being labeled as an allergen. Studies show most allergic individuals can safely eat soy oil that has been highly refined (*not* cold pressed, expeller pressed, or extruded soybean oil).
- Most individuals allergic to soy can safely eat soy lecithin.
- Follow your doctor’s advice regarding these ingredients.

How to Read a Label for a Peanut-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain peanut as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word “peanut” on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain peanuts or any of these ingredients:

artificial nuts	mixed nuts
beer nuts	monkey nuts
cold pressed, expeller pressed, or extruded peanut oil	nut meat
goobers	nut pieces
ground nuts	peanut butter
	peanut flour
	peanut protein hydrolysate

Peanut is sometimes found in the following:

African, Asian (<i>especially Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese</i>), and Mexican dishes	candy (<i>including chocolate candy</i>)
baked goods (<i>e.g., pastries, cookies</i>)	chili
	egg rolls
	enchilada sauce
	marzipan
	mole sauce
	nougat

Keep the following in mind:

- Mandelonas are peanuts soaked in almond flavoring.
- A study showed that unlike other legumes, there is a strong possibility of cross-reaction between peanuts and lupine.
- The FDA exempts highly refined peanut oil from being labeled as an allergen. Studies show that most allergic individuals can safely eat peanut oil that has been highly refined (not cold pressed, expeller pressed, or extruded peanut oil). Follow your doctor’s advice.
- Arachis oil is peanut oil.
- Many experts advise patients allergic to peanuts to avoid tree nuts as well.
- Sunflower seeds are often produced on equipment shared with peanuts.

How to Read a Label for a Wheat-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain wheat as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word “wheat” on the product label. The law defines any species in the genus *Triticum* as wheat.

Avoid foods that contain wheat or any of these ingredients:

bread crumbs	<i>pastry, self-rising,</i>	spelt
bulgur	<i>soft wheat, steel</i>	sprouted wheat
cereal extract	<i>ground, stone</i>	triticale
club wheat	<i>ground, whole</i>	vital wheat gluten
couscous	<i>wheat</i>	wheat (<i>bran, durum,</i>
cracker meal	hydrolyzed wheat	<i>germ, gluten,</i>
durum	protein	<i>grass, malt,</i>
einkorn	Kamut	<i>sprouts, starch</i>)
emmer	matzoh, matzoh	wheat bran
farina	meal (<i>also spelled</i>	hydrolysate
flour (<i>all purpose,</i>	<i>as matzo, matzah,</i>	wheat germ oil
<i>bread, cake, durum,</i>	<i>or matza</i>)	wheat grass
<i>enriched, graham,</i>	pasta	wheat protein isolate
<i>high gluten, high</i>	seitan	whole wheat berries
<i>protein, instant,</i>	semolina	

Wheat is sometimes found in the following:

glucose syrup
soy sauce
starch (*gelatinized starch, modified starch, modified food starch, vegetable starch*)
surimi

Guests with celiac disease must avoid all of the ingredients listed above, in addition to barley, oats, and rye. Ale, beer, brewer’s yeast, brown rice syrup, and malt (*extract, flavoring, milk, syrup, vinegar*) must also be avoided.

How to Read a Label for a Shellfish-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain a crustacean shellfish as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the specific crustacean shellfish on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain shellfish or any of these ingredients:

barnacle	lobster (<i>langouste,</i>
crab	<i>langoustine, Moreton</i>
crawfish (<i>crawdad,</i>	<i>bay bugs, scampi,</i>
<i>crayfish, ecrevisse</i>)	<i>tomalley</i>)
krill	prawns
	shrimp (<i>crevette, scampi</i>)

Mollusks are not considered major allergens under food labeling laws and may not be fully disclosed on a product label.

Your doctor may advise you to avoid mollusks or these ingredients:

abalone	oysters
clams (<i>cherrystone,</i>	periwinkle
<i>geoduck, littleneck,</i>	scallops
<i>pismo, quahog</i>)	sea cucumber
cockle	sea urchin
cuttlefish	snails (<i>escargot</i>)
limpet (<i>lapas, opihi</i>)	squid (<i>calamari</i>)
mussels	whelk (<i>Turban shell</i>)
octopus	

Shellfish are sometimes found in the following:

bouillabaisse	seafood flavoring (<i>e.g.,</i>
cuttlefish ink	<i>crab or clam extract</i>)
fish stock	surimi
glucosamine	

Keep the following in mind:

- Any food served in a seafood restaurant may contain shellfish protein due to cross-contact.
- For some individuals, a reaction may occur from inhaling cooking vapors or from handling fish or shellfish.

How to Read a Label for an Egg-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain egg as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word “egg” on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain eggs or any of these ingredients:

albumin (<i>also spelled albumen</i>)	mayonnaise
egg (<i>dried, powdered, solids, white, yolk</i>)	meringue (<i>meringue powder</i>)
eggnog	ovalbumin
lysozyme	surimi

Egg is sometimes found in the following:

baked goods	marzipan
egg substitutes	marshmallows
lecithin	nougat
macaroni	pasta

Keep the following in mind:

- Individuals with egg allergy should also avoid eggs from duck, turkey, goose, quail, etc., as these are known to be cross-reactive with chicken egg.

How to Read a Label for a Tree Nut-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain a tree nut as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the specific tree nut on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain nuts or any of these ingredients:

almond	Nangai nut
artificial nuts	natural nut extract (<i>e.g., almond, walnut</i>)
beechnut	nut butters (<i>e.g., cashew butter</i>)
Brazil nut	nut meal
butternut	nut meat
cashew	nut paste (<i>e.g., almond paste</i>)
chestnut	nut pieces
chinquapin	pecan
coconut	pesto
filbert/hazelnut	pili nut
gianduja (<i>a chocolate-nut mixture</i>)	pine nut (<i>also referred to as Indian, pignoli,</i>
ginkgo nut	<i>pignolia, pignon, piñon, and pinyon nut</i>)
hickory nut	pistachio
litchi/lichee/lychee nut	praline
macadamia nut	shea nut
marzipan/almond paste	walnut

Tree nuts are sometimes found in the following:

black walnut hull extract (*flavoring*)
natural nut extract
nut distillates/alcoholic extracts
nut oils (*e.g., walnut oil, almond oil*)
walnut hull extract (*flavoring*)

Keep the following in mind:

- Mortadella may contain pistachios.
- There is no evidence that coconut oil and shea nut oil/butter are allergenic.
- Many experts advise patients allergic to tree nuts to avoid peanuts as well.
- Talk to your doctor if you find other nuts not listed here.