# The 21 Day Challenge.

### This is not an ordinary diet.





### Contents.

- 1. <u>This will change your life.</u>
- 2. <u>The week before.</u>
- 3. <u>The Les Mills food pyramid.</u>
- 4. <u>What you'll eat.</u>
- 5. <u>What you'll drink.</u>
- 6. <u>How to shop.</u>
- 7. <u>Suggested 7-day eating plan for Women.</u>
- 8. <u>Suggested 7-day eating plan for Men.</u>
- 9. <u>Workout tracker.</u>
- **10.** <u>Meal Tracker planner.</u>
- **11.** <u>Measure your success.</u>
- 12. Day 22. You made it!
- **13.** <u>FAQS.</u>

Developed especially for Les Mills On Demand, by the Les Mills 21 Day Challenge team.

Before taking part in this challenge, please seek medical advice if any of the following conditions apply to you:

- Pregnancy
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Obesity
- Musculo skeletal disorders that reduce your ability to perform exercise

Like with any new diet or exercise routine, you should be cleared by a medical professional before taking part. The 21 Day Challenge is not recommended for anyone under the age of 18 years.

## This will change your life.

#### THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY DIET.

Welcome to the LES MILLS 21 Day Challenge! Think of it as a quick way to reset your body to healthier eating patterns and exercise habits, using a combination of nutrition plans and regular workouts from LES MILLS On Demand.

#### It's work, but it's worth it

So many diets promise to be easy, you're assured that "you won't even notice you're dieting." With the 21 Day Challenge, that's not the case. It will take some work, and there will be times you wish you hadn't signed up for it... But you're worth the effort!

The exercise part will take some work too. But our awesome instructors and fresh music help make that part fun. You'll be doing a healthy amount of exercise, with plenty of variety so you don't get bored. And it's all LES MILLS On Demand workouts, which are easy to follow and designed for real results.

#### There are two levels you can choose from.

The Moderate level includes 150 minutes of cardio exercise per week. You can still eat high-starch carbs, but only before and after your workouts.

The Advanced level is a full training program including 165 minutes of cardio weekly, and you can only have low-starch carbs in your diet.

To help you keep track of what workouts you are doing and what you eat over the 21 days, we have developed helpful tools for you to do this. Our Meal and Workout Trackers are specifically designed for you to check off your meal consumption and exercise each day. Print these out and pin to the fridge or keep on your desk at work, so you can easily check off each day.

#### Our promise

Our experience shows that if you choose to put your body through this program, you are going to lose weight and fat, become healthier and you are going to teach your body to desire what it needs. You'll create long-lasting, easy to maintain lifestyle habits that will not interfere with your family or social life. The best thing is, it only takes three weeks.

That's less time than it took for THAT at-home haircut to grow out. But unlike the haircut, we promise you will not regret doing this. You'll only regret not trying it sooner.

Get prepared and ready for your 21 Day Challenge - we start soon!

"This isn't a diet. It's about shifting your nutrition habits and setting up positive patterns in your life. Your body will change for the better and you'll establish a new, healthier lifestyle.

#### Corey Baird, Group Fitness Technical Consultant Les Mills International

"Combining better nutrition with a regular mix of exercise, including cardio, strength and flexibility training, is the key to building a healthier lifestyle. Good food is your fuel for exercise."

Bryce Hastings, Head of Research Les Mills International

### The week before.

#### **1. TRACKING**

Prior to commencing a purposeful change to your diet, you should first understand your regular eating routine by tracking everything you eat and drink for a week.

You can track your usual percentages of carbohydrates, proteins and fats with an online food diary – we suggest using one of the following:

- <u>Myfitnesspal.com</u>
- <u>Fitday.com</u>
- <u>My-calorie-counter.com</u>
- <u>Choosemyplate.org</u>
- <u>Livestrong.com/thedailyplate/</u>
- <u>Myfooddiary.com</u>

#### 2. CHANGE

Once you've determined your daily percentage of carbohydrates, you now need to make some changes to your diet, as outlined below:

- If your daily carbohydrate intake is equal to or greater than 55% of your total calories, reduce your carbohydrates to 35% for one week and to 20% for a second week. Then begin the 21 Day Challenge in the third week.
- If your regular carbohydrate intake is less than 55% of your total calories, reduce your carbohydrates to 20% for one week and then begin the 21 Day Challenge the following week.
- Sugar is a major contributor to carbohydrate intake as well. Ensure that you are cutting out sugary foods and drinks during this time also, as they'll be completely cut out during the 21 days.

#### 3. RECORD

In addition to providing you with an honest assessment of your daily caloric intake (and where these calories are coming from), keeping a food diary can also help prevent mindless eating. If you record when you eat and how you're feeling at the time, the diary will help you to recognize and correct negative eating patterns, such as a tendency to eat for emotional reasons rather than hunger.

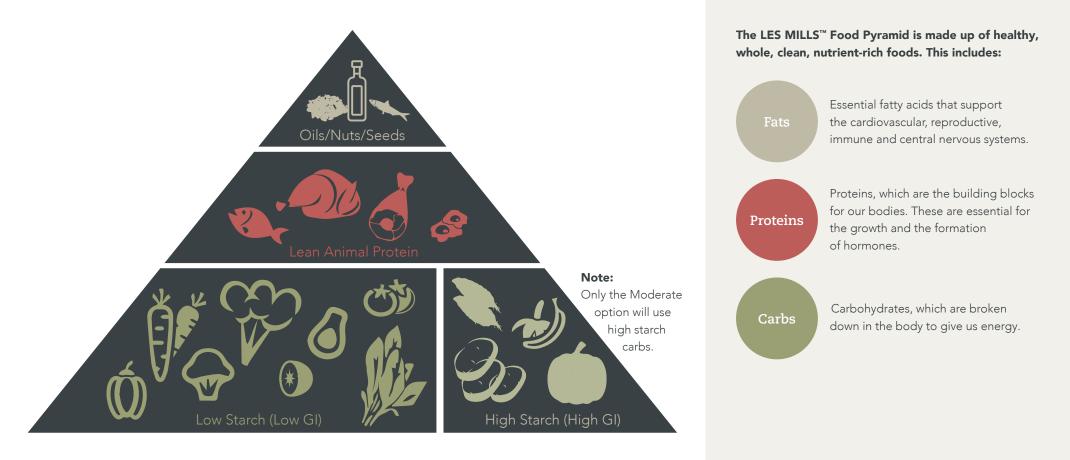
If you see a pattern of late night snacks, eating out of boredom or sadness, or recognize that celebratory meals are a bit out of hand, you can correct these behaviors and keep your new healthy eating plan on track.

Tips from Corey. Clear your cupboard of any junk food to avoid any temptation through the challenge.

### The Les Mills Food Pyramid.

The LES MILLS Food Pyramid is made up of healthy, clean, nutrient-rich foods. This includes:

Tips from Corey.



To help with digestion of all these wonderful whole foods, make sure you eat slowly and chew your food until its a liquid form. Remember it takes around 15 minutes for your digestive system to tell your brain you are full.

Use the 21 Day Challenge Recipe Book to help keep meals interesting and varied.

## What you'll eat.

#### Each day we recommend the following intake:

For women have 4 meals per day plus 1 post-workout protein shake on days when you are exercising.

For men have 5 meals per day plus 1 post-workout shake on days when you are exercising.

It's important you are eating these meals at regular intervals throughout the day. This will help reduce sugar cravings and increase your success.

For the Moderate option, make sure that you include a fist portion of high starch carbs and 1-2 handfuls of low starch carbs in your pre-and post-work out meals. You will need to take out the thumb of fats for these meals too and choose lean animal protein for your meat.

White fish, turkey or chicken breast and turkey mince are good choices as they are lower in fat. Your starchy carbs may include: brown rice, quinoa, baked potato, baked sweet potato, pumpkin, banana, oats, yam, parsnip.

#### Each meal needs to include:



**1 palm full** (size and thickness of the palm of your hand) of lean beef, lamb, chicken, duck, turkey, fish, shellfish, pork or eggs.



**A thumb size** of nuts and seeds, avocado, olive oil, fish oil, flaxseed oil or coconut oil.



**1-2 handfuls** of broccoli, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, green beans, asparagus, mushrooms, brussels sprouts, cucumber, spinach, watercress, onions, all forms of capsicums or peppers, raw carrots, tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Never skip a meal. The planning will probably be the toughest part of these three weeks, but it's worth it.
  When you skip a meal, you will be way more likely to over-eat later on.
- Always eat breakfast.
- If you are famished, have some nuts (6-8 nuts = 1 serve).
- Aim to eat your last meal at least two hours before bed, so that your digestion process does not affect your sleep and recovery (another common reason for overeating is tiredness).
- Eat different types of protein to get all the amino acids and avoid food sensitivities.

## What you'll drink.

### Protein Shake

Drinking shakes is a must! They will help you recover faster, keep your energy levels up and help you feel ready to work out again the next day.

You'll need to have it within 10 minutes of working out (you need 0.3 grams of protein per kg of body weight). You'll need to source a 100% whey protein, or if you have a sensitivity to whey protein try rice or pea protein.

## Hydration

Water will not only hydrate you but also make you feel fuller and detox your body, flushing away any nasty toxins and leaving you with that gorgeous glow.

Each day, take your body weight in kilograms and multiple by 0.033; this is how many liters of water you'll need to consumer each day, plus one extra glass of water for every hour of exercise. For example, if you're 61kg and did 90 minutes of exercise in a day you would need 2 liters + 1½ glasses of water.

These requirements are purely for your water intake only.

#### What you can drink

Herbal tea, black tea, black coffee are okay to drink but this is not included in your daily water recommendations. Sweeteners (including artificial ones) are a big no-no! That's right, there's no alcohol on this list. Think of it as 21 days of bliss for your liver.

Tips from Corey.

- To get some extra trace minerals, add a small pinch of unrefined sea salt to every liter of water this will help maintain your hydration levels.
- Fill up your water bottle at the start of the day, and don't fill up again until empty this is how you can track accurately your water intake.

## How to shop.

#### Foods to avoid:

- Dairy products (except for 100% whey protein for your daily shake).
- Roasted or salted nuts eat unsalted raw nuts as the fats in roasted nuts are really bad for you.
- Grains wheat, cereals, oats, rice etc. Basically anything that comes in a cardboard box. A good idea is to go through your pantry and get rid of everything! Otherwise, store it where your family or room mates can easily access it, but it's out of sight for you.
- Fruit. It's only three weeks, you can live without apples for three weeks, right?
- Legumes. That's chickpeas, lentils, beans etc.
- Starchy vegetables such as potato, sweet potato, parsnip, yams and pumpkin. You're replacing these carbs with other vegetables.
- Soy products. Did you know they are actually carbs, not protein? Don't be fooled by marketing. The only acceptable soy product is tamari soy sauce, as it doesn't contain wheat.
- Salt, dressings and fats in excess. You'll see that some of the delicious recipes in your recipe booklet suggest small amounts of ingredients such as salt and mayonnaise. Don't go overboard, these condiments and flavors should be enjoyed in small amounts only. Don't forget that natural herbs and spices are a great way to add flavor and variety to your food.

### To get you ready for the challenge, we've put together shopping list ideas to get you started...

- Coconut oil, olive oil for cooking
- Eggs and egg whites
- Frozen seafood: Prawns/shrimp, fish fillets (not crumbed), shellfish, calamari rings
- Fresh salmon
- Whole chicken, leg of lamb, pork tenderloins... (whatever you can buy to make multiple meals)
- Fish sauce for flavor in some dishes
- Kelp noodles
- Bagged salads: Slaw, spinach, lettuce mixes
- Cauliflower for mash, or for "rice"
- Fresh herbs to flavor food: try basil, mint, cilantro/coriander, rosemary
- Capsicum or peppers, sweet for snacks and spicy for seasoning
- Dried herbs and spices: red pepper flakes, black pepper, thyme, spice mixes
- Garlic, onions, celery, ginger for tasty stir-fry bases.
- Avocado

#### Nuts

Lots of green vegetables (e.g broccoli, silverbeet)

Tamari sauce for stir-fry

#### Helpful kitchen tools:

- Food processor
- Slow cooker
- Lots of reusable airtight containers
- Mandoline food slicers (for veggie spaghetti)
- Stick blender (soups, cauliflower rice)

### Suggested 7 Day Eating Plan for Women.

#### Here is a week of 21 Day Challenge meal ideas to get you started!

All the recipes with an \* are available in your recipe book.



## Suggested 7 Day Eating Plan for Men.

#### Here is a week of 21 Day Challenge meal ideas to get you started!

All the recipes with an \* are available in your recipe book.





- Meal 1 Silverbeet fritters with mayonnaise\*
- Meal 2 Sashimi and salad
- Meal 3 Salmon with broccoli salad
- Meal 4 Lamb rack with cauliflower mash\*
- Meal 5 Grilled chicken skewers with red peppers + protein shake post workout



- **Meal 1** Omelette with tomato, spinach, onion, garlic and capsicum
- Meal 2 Steak and salad
- Meal 3 Chicken patties with guacamole and salsa\*
- Meal 4 Prawns and cabbage\* Meal 5 – Salmon and veggies + Protein shake post-workout



- Meal 1 Poached eggs on grilled eggplant and mushrooms
- Meal 2 Fish hash with carrot salad and red onion
- Meal 3 Chicken sausages with crudités
- Meal 4 Silverbeet mince wraps
- Meal 5 Seared lamb with mint on cauliflower rice + protein shake post-workout



- Meal 1 Naked Huevos Rancheros with salsa. avocado and capsicum\*
- Meal 2 Spiced Mince\*
- Meal 3 Chicken patties with kale salad\*
- Meal 4 Steak fajitas with lettuce tortillas
- Meal 5 Chicken breast with roasted areen vegaies + Protein shake post-workout



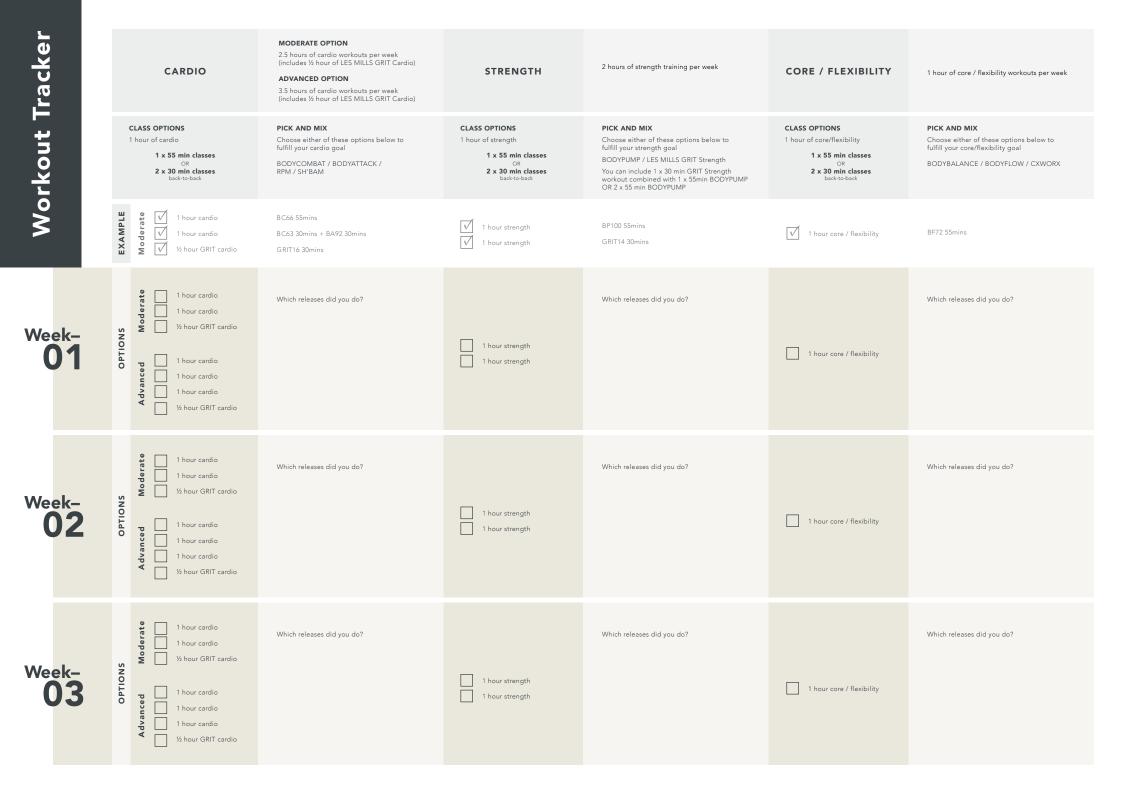
- Meal 1 Minced beef with onions, zucchini and mushrooms
- Meal 2 Pork lettuce cups
- Meal 3 Chicken salad
- Meal 4 Fish and cucumber salad
- Meal 5 Mediterranean Chicken Stack\*
- + Protein shake post-workout

- Meal 1 Chilli Scrambled Eggs on roast tomatoes and baby spinach
- **Meal 2** Lamb and egg stack with tomatoes and avocado\*
- Meal 3 Chicken lettuce cups
- Meal 4 Meatballs on grated carrot and celery
- Meal 5 Baked chicken thighs with lemon and olive oil
- + Protein shake post-workout



#### 1 Day Meal Plan:

- Meal 1 Chicken breast, baby spinach and sweet potato (pre workout)
- Meal 2 Protein shake post-workout
- **Meal 3** Turkey mince patties with veggies and potato.
- Meal 4 Prawn Kebabs
- Meal 5 Mediterranean Chicken Stack
- Meal 6 Salmon and salad



cer	HYDRATION			MEN						HOW DO YOU FEEL?	TRACK YOUR PROGRESS				
Meal Tracker	WATER		4 MEALS PER DAY A MEALS PER DAY					5 MEALS PER DAY 5 MEALS PER DAY 5 MEALS 1 x palm portion of lean animal proteins, 2 x handful portions of low-starch carbs, and 1 x thumb portion of essential fats 0 n workout days also have: 1 x post-workout protein shake (within 10 mins after workout)							
														Sugars and high-starch carbs can have an impact on the way your body is feeling. What changes have you noticed mentally, physically and emotionally?	Waist Measurement
	Body weight kgs multiplied by 0.033 PLUS 1 x glass for every hour of exercise Water Intake			Include	Have l <b>e:</b> 1 x fist portior	one meal 2-3 h	ours before and arbs + 1-2 x ha	PTION ONLY - ON WORKOUT DAYS before and another within 2 hours after exe s + 1-2 x handfuls of low starch carbs (as you ake out: 1 x thumb of fats			rcise. still need lots of fiber)			and emotionary:	
						Track your	daily meals by	/ ticking the bo	king the boxes below					This week I felt tired, sluggish, energetic, agitated I noticed that my energy levels / stamina / weight	cms / inches
			Meal 1	Meal 2	Meal 3	Meal 4	SHAKE	Meal 1	Meal 2	Meal 3	1 3 Meal 4 Meal 5 SHAKE				
week- 01	Day 01	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 02	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 03	L/fl. oz.												Week-	
	Day 04	L/fl. oz.												01	
	Day 05	L/fl. oz.												UT I	
	Day 06	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 07	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 08	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 09	L/fl. oz.													
W/a ala	Day 10	L/fl. oz.												Ma ala	
Week- 02	Day 11	L/fl. oz.												Week-	
	Day 12	L/fl. oz.												UZ	
	Day 13	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 14	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 15	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 16	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 17	L/fl. oz.													
Week-	Day 18	L/fl. oz.												Week-	
03	Day 19	L/fl. oz.												03	
	Day 20	L/fl. oz.													
	Day 21	L/fl. oz.													

### Measure your success.

Aside from looking and feeling great, waist measurement is a great indicator of how you're getting on.

#### Why measure waist circumference?

It's a simple check to tell how much body fat you have and where it is placed around your body. Where fat is located is an important indication of your risk of developing ongoing health problems.

No matter what your height or build, an increased waistline is a sign that you could be at greater risk of developing serious health problems including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and some cancers.

Measuring your waistline is a simple check. For an accurate measurement:

- Measure directly against your skin
- Breathe out normally
- Make sure the tape is snug, without compressing the skin
- The correct place to measure your waist is horizontally halfway between your lowest rib and the top of your hipbone. This is roughly in line with your belly button.

#### What does your waist measurement mean?

The waist measurements below (no matter what your height is) suggests you have an increased risk of developing a chronic disease:

#### Increased risk:

- Men: more than 94 centimeters
- Women: more than 80 centimeters

#### Greatly increased risk:

- Men: more than 102 centimeters
- Women: more than 88 centimeters

Check out more info <u>here</u>



Trust us, this plan really does work!

## Day 22: You made it.

### You've completed the challenge and you're looking and feeling incredible!

Welcome back to the real world of food choices. That croissant is no longer off-limits, you can finally curb your sushi craving, the milk can go back in your coffee... so how do we live with the food we love, while maintaining the great results? Here are some suggestions:

- Use the hand eyeball method (that is 1 palm full of protein, 1-2 handfuls vegetables and a thumb size of fat) to monitor your portion sizes so that you can eat some of the foods you love and have missed.
- Still stay away from processed foods as much as possible, as this is better for long-term health. By doing this, you're eliminating food colorings, preservatives and sweeteners which are all harmful to your health.
- Eat like you're still on the challenge 80% of the time, and then eat what you want for the other 20%.
- Stay with a palm of protein each time you sit down to eat a meal, as well as the thumb of good fats.

- Keep refined carbs and starchy vegetables low as this is where the main physical changes are made.
- If you're wanting carbs, stick with the low G.I. kind as they enter the blood slowly giving you a much more sustained energy response and mean you'll take in less carbohydrates in total.
- If you want to add some starchy carbs back into your diet put them in before and after training. Your body is more likely to use them as an energy source during training and afterwards to help you recover.
- When adding fruits back in, choose those with dark skins as they have higher antioxidant levels and lower Glycemic load. Berries are better choices than bananas and pineapple. When fruits are dried, the Glycemic index goes up because of the dehydration of the fruit... so easy on these!

Check out the website <u>www.glycemicindex.com</u> for more information on the G.I. of foods.

• Unsweetened plain yogurt, nuts and seeds are great for a snack.

These are some great articles to help you stay on track and keep you focused on healthy living choices!

#### Six Healthy Habits

<u>Carbs 101</u>

The Good the Fat and The Ugly

<u>Your Metabolism</u>

<u>10 of the Best: Healthy recipes</u>

#### Want more info?

We have loads of helpful articles on nutrition, fitness research, and healthy recipes <u>here</u>.

### FAQS.

### I train early in the mornings. Do I eat breakfast before the workout or after?

Eat breakfast 1½ to 2 hours before the class as long as it does not disrupt your sleep. For example, if the class is at 6 a.m. and you have to get up at 4 a.m. to eat breakfast, then you are disrupting your sleep.

If that is the case, it is probably best to skip breakfast and have your post-workout shake immediately after finishing the class, then eat breakfast within an hour of finishing the workout.

#### I've started drinking the suggested amount of water and I have to go to the toilet a lot. How can I prevent this?

As your body begins to hydrate itself, you may indeed experience frequent trips to the toilet.

To help with this you can add a pinch of unrefined sea salt to each liter of water. This also increases the mineral content of the water to help you stay hydrated.

It is best to sip water throughout the day rather than drinking a whole glass at a time. This helps to keep you constantly hydrated.

#### I normally eat cereal or toast for breakfast. What can I eat for breakfast on this plan?

Try an omelet filled with vegetables or grilled chicken with salad.

This may not seem ideal or what you are used to but this type of breakfast will set you up for better energy levels through the day.

### What if I can't live without yogurt/chocolate, or coffee with milk?

If you have a 'non-negotiable' that you cannot live without then you are welcome to keep it in your diet, but it will slow down your progress and in some cases, depending on how much of the 'non- negotiable' you have, it will stop your progress altogether.

### What exactly can I have in terms of condiments, sauces etc?

All herbs and spices are allowed. Tomato-based sauces are best but look for ones without sugar.

You can also have mustards and balsamic vinegar. So, look for condiments and sauces that have no sugar or grainbased products in them. And look for gluten free on the label. Tamari soy sauce is OK in small amounts - but use just enough to lightly flavor the food. Use salt and natural mayonnaise in small amounts.

#### What is a grain?

Grains are a carbohydrate. They include:

- Wheat all types including spelt and bulgur
- Rice wild, brown, white and colored
- Oats including oatmeal
- Corn including popcorn and cornmeal
- Millet
- Quinoa
- Rye
- Teff
- Sorghum (also called Milo)
- Triticale
- All cereals

#### What if I fall off the plan?

Simply get back on it as quickly as you can. Progress and overall results will be limited if you don't stick with the plan for the full 21 days.

#### If I'm not eating grains, where do I get my fiber from?

There is eight times more fiber in non-starchy vegetables, such as leafy greens, than in grains.

This means that by eating 1 to 2 handfuls of vegetables at each meal you'll be getting plenty of fiber.

This also means that eating these vegetables at each meal is extremely important to keep your digestive system moving.

#### What do I do when I feel tired?

In the first 7 to 14 days you may feel tired as your body adjusts to the change in macronutrient composition.

This is a good time to make sure you have your food organized, ready to eat in the correct portions of protein, carbohydrates and good fats.

When feeling extra tired, we suggest workouts that are low intensity cardio, such as SH'BAM, low intensity options in RPM or BODYBALANCE.

Make sure you're having all of your meals at regular intervals each day and before you know it, your energy levels will be better than ever!

### If I'm not eating milk products how will I get the right amount calcium?

All green vegetables contain calcium as well as most nuts and seeds, especially sesame seeds, almonds and Brazil nuts.

Good choices of green vegetables that are high in calcium are spinach, kelp, collard greens, kale, broccoli and celery.

Many green vegetables have a better calcium-absorption rate compared with milk products.

Eating lots of vegetables in your diet will help prevent bone deterioration.

#### When should I have my last meal for the day?

Try to stop eating 2 hours before bedtime so the digestion process does not affect your sleep and recovery.

#### I'm a vegetarian and would like to do the 21 Day Challenge. Is this possible?

Unfortunately, if you eat a diet which does not include animal protein, we do not recommend you attempt the 21 Day Challenge. Les Mills advocates eating a variety of meat, chicken and fish in your diet as a great source of protein.

