

Do you need vitamin-enhanced foods?

July 8 2019, by Len Canter, Healthday Reporter

| Nutrition Facts | |
|---|----------------------|
| 8 servings per container | |
| Serving size | 2/3 cup (55g) |
| Amount per serving | |
| Calories | 230 |
| % Daily Value* | |
| Total Fat 8g | 10% |
| Saturated Fat 1g | 5% |
| Trans Fat 0g | |
| Cholesterol 0mg | 0% |
| Sodium 160mg | 7% |
| Total Carbohydrate 37g | 13% |
| Dietary Fiber 4g | 14% |
| Total Sugars 12g | |
| Includes 10g Added Sugars | 20% |
| Protein 3g | |
| Vitamin D 2mcg | 10% |
| Calcium 260mg | 20% |
| Iron 8mg | 45% |
| Potassium 235mg | 6% |
| * The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice. | |

(HealthDay)—Many packaged foods have the potential to give you vitamin overload, especially if you're already taking a daily multivitamin. Here's what you need to know.

Manufacturers have been adding nutrients to foods for decades. In fact, it started nearly 100 years ago with the addition of iodine to salt. Vitamins and minerals are added to foods in two key ways.

Foods and beverages can be "enriched." This means putting back nutrients lost in processing, like the longstanding practice of adding B vitamins to packaged breads and cereals made with refined flours. Keep in mind that this doesn't necessarily make them as nutrient-dense as foods made with whole grains, because not every natural micronutrient lost in processing can be replaced.

Foods and beverages can be "fortified." This means adding one or more nutrients not normally found in the food in its natural state. Sometimes this is helpful—adding hard-to-get vitamin D to milk, adding calcium to non-dairy milks and [orange juice](#) for those who are lactose intolerant, and adding [omega-3 fatty acids](#) to eggs for people who don't eat enough fatty fish.

But some foods are fortified with levels of nutrients that exceed limits set by the Institute of Medicine. And sometimes they're just not necessary for you. For instance, according to a University of Toronto study, the most common vitamins added to fortified waters are already abundant in the average diet.

A report from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns that vitamin-fortified [snack foods](#) are among the most misleading. Researchers found that people are less likely to look past front-of-box claims on snack foods to read the Nutrition Facts label, and they choose fortified snacks over healthier products. When shopping, always remember that adding nutrients to a [food](#) that's full of empty calories doesn't make it healthy.

More information: Consumer Reports has more on the [potential](#)

[dangers of fortified foods.](#)

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