Fuelling for Runners



For regular, easy running it is best to hydrate well and rely on stored body fat for fuel.

For hard workouts and races, follow these guidelines to optimize performance and recovery.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Within 90mins pre-run	During Run	30mins After Run	2hrs After Run	All other times of the day
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Time Period	Eating Goals	Good Food Choices	
0-90 minutes pre-run 90 min	 Top up glycogen levels (Higher GI foods closer to workout). Hydrate. Satisfy hunger. Start recovery process by eating Branch Chain Amino Acids (BCAA). 	 Eggs with fruit Fruit and protein powder mix Chopped veggies w/dip + lean meat Water (esp. in final hour), tea/coffee Fruit or vegetable juice Sports bar with protein Gels or sports drink with protein 	
During run	 Maintain fuel for use. Maintain hydration. Maintain electrolytes. 	 Water Sports drinks Energy gels Sports bars 	
0-30mins after run 30 min - Within 2-hrs after run 2 HOURS	Body is most receptive to food! 1. Replenish glycogen levels. 2. Rehydrate. 3. BCAA protein to repair muscle. 4. Electrolytes. 5. Reduce blood acidity levels. 1. Replenish glycogen stores with sources rich in micronutrients and antioxidants. 2. Continue to supply amino acids for muscle repair. 3. Full meal following real food guidelines.	 4:1 Carb:Protein Ratio Fruit, raisins or trail mix Hardboiled egg, jerky or lean meat Protein powder smoothie Fruit and almond butter Apple sauce with protein powder Veggies and guacamole/hummus Leafy green vegetables Animal protein sources Water to rehydrate Lean meat and veggies (cauliflower rice, spaghetti squash, salad) Quinoa, sweet potatoes, wild rice, fruit 	
Other hours of the day	 Rebuild muscle tissue. Neutralize blood acidity. Reduce inflammation. Maintain body weight. Maintain glycogen stores. 	Lean protein Wild caught fish & seafood Grass fed beef or pork Wild game meats, poultry, eggs Healthy fats Oils: coconut, olive, avocado, walnut, macadamia oil Coconut, butter, nuts and seeds Omega-3 supplements Carbohydrate primarily from fresh vegetables and fruit.	