Use the Nutrition Facts Label!

Packaged and prepared foods can contain high levels of sodium, whether or not they taste salty. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is working with the food industry to make reasonable reductions in sodium across a wide variety of foods so Americans have an easier time consuming less sodium if they want to. Even though sodium may already be in these foods, you can follow these steps to lower your daily sodium intake.

- **Limit sodium to less than 2,300 milligrams (mg)** per day for adults—that’s equal to about 1 teaspoon of table salt! Recommended limits are even lower for children under age 14.

- **Use % Daily Value (%DV)** to see if a serving of food is high or low in sodium and to compare food products. As a general guide: 5% DV or less per serving of sodium is considered low, and 20% DV or more per serving of sodium is considered high.

- **Pay attention to the serving size** and the number of servings you eat or drink to determine how much sodium you are consuming.

### Sodium and Health

Diets higher in sodium are associated with an increased risk of developing high blood pressure (also known as hypertension). Uncontrolled high blood pressure can raise the risk of heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, kidney disease, and blindness. Consuming less sodium can help reduce your risk of developing these health conditions.

* The Daily Value (100% DV) for sodium—reference amount not to exceed each day