

Group 1 Unprocessed or Minimally Processed Foods

Fresh, dry, or frozen vegetables or fruit, grains, legumes, meat, fish, eggs, nuts and seeds.



Processing includes removal of inedible/unwanted parts. Does not add substances to the original food.

Group 2 Processed Culinary Ingredients

Plant oils (e.g., olive oil, coconut oil), animal fats (e.g., cream, butter, lard), maple syrup, sugar, honey, and salt.



Substances derived from Group 1 foods or from nature by processes including pressing, refining, grinding, milling, and drying.

Group 3 Processed Foods

Canned/pickled vegetables, meat, fish, or fruit, artisanal bread, cheese, salted meats, wine, beer, and cider.



Processing of foods from Group 1 or 2 with the addition of oil, salt, or sugar by means of canning, pickling, smoking, curing, or fermentation.

Group 4 Ultra-Processed Foods

Sugar sweetened beverages, sweet and savory packaged snacks, reconstituted meat products, pre-prepared frozen dishes, canned/instant soups, chicken nuggets, ice cream.



Formulations made from a series of processes including extraction and chemical modification. Includes very little intact Group 1 foods.

Increasing Level of Processing