

A top-down view of a dining table set for a holiday meal. The table is covered with a light-colored wooden surface and green fringed placemats. In the center, a white plate holds a roasted duck with orange slices and green herbs. To the left, a white bowl contains a yellow soup, and a white egg carton holds several brown eggs. A lit candle in a glass holder and a small vase with orange and white flowers are also visible. The table is set with white plates, copper-colored cutlery, and green napkins.

Healthy Habit Hacks

The Holiday Edition

TOP TIPS TO
RING IN THE
NEW YEAR

Holiday Habit Hacks

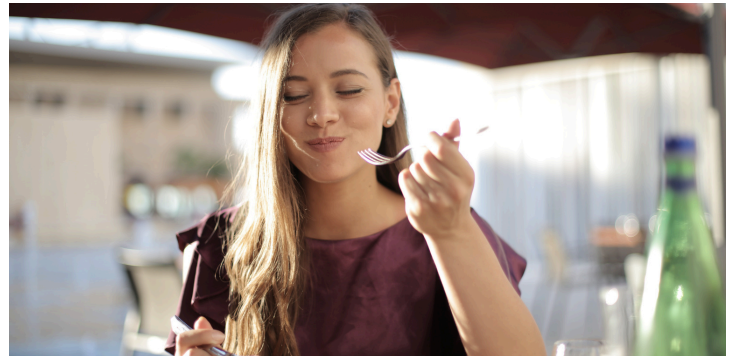
The holiday season is a festive whirlwind of family gatherings, joyful laughter, and an abundance of cheer. But let's be honest—between the eggnog toasting, jaw-dropping foodie dishes, and mountains of holiday cookies, the temptations can be hard to resist! The great news?

You can still celebrate now and at every holiday throughout the year without totally sabotaging your health goals.



Bring a healthy dish to share

Headed to party and aren't sure if there will be healthy options? Bring your own! That way you know there will be at least one healthy dish there.



Eat mindfully

It can take your brain up to 20 minutes to realize you're full. So at holiday meals slow down, eat mindfully, and savor each bite.



Fill up on veggies

Vegetables are nutrient dense, low in calories, and rich in fiber, which helps you feel full longer. At holiday gatherings, aim to fill half your plate with veggies -- and eat them first. 😊



Don't skip meals

Skipping meals to save your calories for later usually backfires. Often, you end up ravenous and are more likely to overeat at dinner. Sticking to a meal schedule helps keep your blood sugar steady to prevent overeating.

Holiday Habit Hacks

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Drink smart

Celebratory beverages contain empty calories that can add up quickly. So if you drink, do so in moderation. Try drinking a glass of water in between drinks, or adding sparkling water to your wine. Or enjoy a festive holiday mocktail, decaf coffee, or warm tea.



Watch your portions

There's nothing wrong with indulging in your favorite foods. Just watch your portion sizes so you don't overdo it. Try using a smaller plate. Start with a small portion, and if you really need more, you can go back for seconds.



Find healthy swaps

Consider trying a healthier version of your favorite holiday foods. For example, instead deep frying the turkey, bake it. Love cranberry sauce? Swap out the sugar for orange juice and maple syrup (recipe here). Or instead of mashed potatoes, try some mashed cauliflower.



Move your body

One easy way to offset those extra holiday calories is to exercise. Aim for 30 minutes of physical movement most days. You can even get the family to join in. Try going for a family walk after dinner, have a touch football game in the back yard, or have a dance party.

Holiday Habit Hacks

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Say no to food pushers

Feeling pressured to eat unhealthy foods? If a friend or family member won't take no for an answer, be confident and politely decline. Stay firm and say, "No thank you" until they back off.



Watch where you stand

Try to not stand too close to the food table. If you do, it makes it easy to mindlessly munch while you chat. Fill your plate and then move across the room and visit.



Upgrade your sweets

When the holiday season rolls around, temptations are *everywhere*. But you can still enjoy festive treats without wrecking your health goals. Just try healthier versions that are naturally sweetened with honey, maple syrup, dates, coconut sugar, or monkfruit. Check out [this blog](#) & [this blog](#) for inspiration.



Don't shop hungry

Headed to the mall for some holiday shopping? Eat before you go. That way, hangry cravings won't hit and Cinnabon won't seem so tempting. Having snacks on hand is also a smart move. Good options include [jerky](#), nuts, and protein bars.