# **Sweeteners**

# Sugar Substitutes

ovdrate-free

Sugar substitutes taste sweet but they are calorie-free and carbohydrate-free. They do not cause weight gain or cavities and do not raise blood sugar levels. Check websites or call companies for recipes and product information.

Generic Names	Product Names and Details	Contact Information	
Acesulfame - K	<ul> <li>Sweet One, Sunett</li> <li>Heat stable so can be used in baking</li> <li>Is made from potassium, but does not raise blood potassium levels.</li> </ul>	Sweet One 800-544-8610 sweetone.com	
Aspartame	<ul> <li>Equal, NutraSweet, NatraTaste</li> <li>Loses its sweetness at high temperatures so is not ideal for baking</li> <li>Is made from 2 amino acids (natural building blocks of protein)</li> </ul>		
Saccharin	<ul> <li>Sweet'N Low</li> <li>Heat stable so can be used in baking</li> <li>First use was 1886</li> </ul>	Sweet'N Low 800-221-1763 sweetnlow.com	
Stevia	<ul> <li>Stevia in the Raw, Purevia, Truvia</li> <li>Heat stable so can be used in baking</li> <li>Is made from the leaves of a plant</li> </ul>	Stevia stevia.com 800-611-7434	
Sucralose	<ul> <li>Splenda</li> <li>Heat stable so can be used in baking</li> <li>Is made from sugar</li> </ul>	Splenda 800-777-5363 splenda.com	

**Safety Note:** The sugar substitutes listed above and approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

- ✓ The American Cancer Society wrote a position statement (2009) that says there is no clear evidence that these sweeteners are associated with cancer risk in humans.
- ✓ The American Diabetes Association (2008) says these sweeteners are safe when consumed within the daily intake levels studied by the FDA.
- ✓ For more information, see the 2012 position paper by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: https://www.andeal.org/vault/2440/web/JADA\_NNS.pdf

## **Sugar Alcohols**

Sugar alcohols are carbohydrates, but provide fewer calories than sugar. They have less impact on blood glucose than other carbohydrates. Used to sweeten candies, chewing gum, pudding, ice cream, cookies and syrups, items made with sugar alcohol can be labeled "sugar-free" or "no sugar added." Check food labels to note calories, fat, and carbohydrate count, because the sugar-free version may be similar to the regular product.

Mannitol	These sugar alcohols may cause gas, cramping or diarrhea in
<ul> <li>Maninoi</li> <li>Sorbitol</li> </ul>	some users. Products sweetened with mannitol or sorbitol must
	carry a label warning of risk for laxative effect.

The following sugar alcohols hold less risk for laxative effect if used in moderation:

- Erythritol
- Glycerol
- Hydrogenated Starch Hydrolysates (HSH)
- Isomalt
- Lactitol
- Maltitol
- Xylitol

## **Sweeteners with Calories**





The sweeteners in the table below are concentrated carbohydrates. Eaten in excess these can raise blood glucose levels as well as contribute to weight gain and dental cavities.

Agave nectar	Dextrose	Honey	Raw Sugar
Brown rice syrup	Evaporated cane juice	Maltose	Sucrose
Brown sugar	Fructose	Maple syrup	Syrup
Cane sugar	Glucose	Molasses	Turbinado sugar
Corn syrup	High fructose corn syrup	Powdered sugar	White sugar

#### Counting carbohydrates in the sweeteners listed in the table above:

1 teaspoon = 5 grams of carbohydrate 1 Tablespoon = 15 grams of carbohydrate

1/4 cup = 60 grams of carbohydrate

### **Agave Nectar**

Agave nectar comes from the natural syrup found in the agave plant. It may have less effect on blood glucose than many other sugars and syrups.

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