## May 2025 Lunch Specials

SUNDAY	MEATLESS	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Did you know?			A La Carte	1	2	3
<ul> <li>Entrées in GREEN are Vegan or Vegetarian</li> <li>Everything is priced a la carte</li> <li>Breakfast is served 7:30-10am</li> <li>Lunch is served 11:30-2pm</li> <li>Dinner is served 5-7pm</li> </ul>			Entrée\$7.75 Vegan Entré\$5.50 Starch\$2.00 Vegetable\$2.00 Sandwich\$7.00	Burger Bar Vegan Burger Bar Onion Rings Side Salad Chili Dog	Turkey Taco Salad Vegan Taco Salad Spanish Rice Guacamole & Chips Philly Cheesesteak	Pork Tamales Rice & Beans Mexican Street Corn
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Shepard's Pie Corn Bread Quinoa Kale Salad	Tuna Avocado Boats Vegan Avocado Boats Toasted Croissant Watermelon Salad	Flank Steak Portabella Steak Baked Potato Roasted Beets	Sausage & Kale Alfredo Vegan Sausage & Kale Pesto Pasta Sweet Potato Arugula Salad	Chicken Stir-Fry Tofu Stir-Fry Veg Spring Rolls Cucumber Salad	Salmon Caesar Salad Vegan Caesar Salad Warm Bread Tomato Soup	Shrimp Ceviche Oat Muffin Spinach Salad
	Egg Salad Sandwich	Ham & Chz Panini	Reuben	Greek Tuna Wrap	Turkey Reuben	
<b>11</b> Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
Honey Baked Ham Breakfast Potatoes Arugula Salad	Hospital Week Lunch Hickory House BBQ Black Bean Burgers Cheesy Potatoes Baked Beans Combread Muffins	Chicken Parmesan Eggplant Parmesan Garlic Bread Green Beans	Niçoise Salad Vegan Niçoise French Bread Gazpacho	Hospital Week Lunch Taco Bar Vegan Taco Bar Rice and Beans Chips and Salsa All the Fixings	Lemon Pepper Tilapia Chickpea Patty Wild Rice Steamed Broccoli	Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Sautéed Zucchini
` ``	Coleslaw	Meatball Sub	Turkey Pesto Panini		Ham & Chz Panini	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Shepard's Pie Corn Bread Quinoa Kale Salad	Kale Salad Vegan Kale Salad Corn Bread Watermelon Mint Salad	Gyro Chickpea Falafel Greek Orzo Baba Ganoush with Pita	Turkey Pot Pie Vegan Pot Pie Cheddar Biscuit Vegan Broccoli Salad	Cobb Salad Vegan Cobb Quinoa & Rice Pasta Salad	Carnitas Burrito Bowl Vegan Burrito Bowl Rice and Beans Chips & Guacamole	Flank Steak Baked Potato Roasted Broccoli
	Portabella Panini	Turkey & Chz Panini	BLT	Greek Tuna Wrap	Buffalo Chicken Sandwich w/ Swiss	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Lemon Caper Chicken Steamed Rice Green Beans	Pozole Vegan Pozole Chips and Salsa Jicama Slaw	Greek Turkey Burger Greek Portabella Burger Orzo Salad Greek Salad	Bento Beef Salad Tofu Bento Salad Soba Noodles Peas & Carrots	Crispy Chicken Sandwich Meatless Chik'n Sandwich Macaroni & Cheese Creamed Spinach	Sausage & Kale Alfredo Vegan Sausage & Kale Pesto Pasta Sweet Potato Arugula Salad	BBQ Chicken Pasta Salad Corn on the Cobb

Aspen Valley Hospital's Vision is to be the leader in fostering our community as the healthiest in the nation. We invite you to nourish your body with one of our delicious daily specials (vegan lunch options available M-F). You can also build a salad at our salad bar, choose one of our homemade soups or select a grab-and-go item from the cooler.

## **Understanding Seed Oils**

Contributors: Serena Ball, MS, RDN Reviewers: Academy Staff RDNs Published: March 18, 2025



Seed oils are oils extracted from the seeds of certain plants. While research suggests that a diet including seed oils is healthful, these oils have been blamed for conditions such as eczema, weight gain and inflammation, especially on social media. So, are these oils actually bad for your health?

When people talk about seed oils, eight specific oils get the most attention: canola, soybean, safflower, corn, cottonseed, grapeseed, rice bran and peanut oils. However, there are a wide variety of seed oils available, including those from sesame, flaxseed and walnut.

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**Omega-3 and Omega-6 Fatty Acids** Seed oils are composed of differing amounts of saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Polyunsaturated fats, or PUFAs, are often present in the highest amounts and are the focus of most seed oil debates. PUFAs include omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, which may help to decrease inflammation in the body when consumed in appropriate ratios. Although most seed oils have a much higher amount of omega-6 fatty acids compared to omega-3s, research on the ideal ratio is unclear. Omega fatty acids are often categorized as omega-3s are "good" and omega-6s are "bad," but it's not that simple. Omega-3 fatty acids (found in foods such as fatty fish, walnuts, chia and flax-seeds) can help support brain and heart health. But it's also true that omega-6 fats are beneficial for lowering the risk of heart disease.

**How Seed Oils are Produced** Besides being a source of omega-6, seed oils have been criticized for how they are produced. Some oils are expeller-pressed or cold-pressed, meaning that heat or chemicals are not used during the process of oil extraction. These oils are produced in small batches, can have a cloudy appearance and can go rancid quickly. In order to yield a clear, shelf-stable oil, producers use heat in extracting the oil from the seed. Chemical solvents may be used to make the extraction process more efficient with less waste. Concerns exist about the potential for chemicals to remain in some oils after processing. However, the Food and Drug Administration's Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) database notes there is no evidence to reasonably suspect a hazard to the public from the way they are used.

**Should Some Seed Oils Be Avoided?** It's important to consider a variety of factors when choosing what to eat. Tops sources of seed oils for many Americans come from ultra-processed foods, such as baked goods, chips, frozen meals, convenience items and fried food, which lack nutrition.

If you find a seed oil listed in the ingredients of foods like whole-grain bread or peanut butter, review the Nutrition Facts label to see if the food provides other beneficial nutrients and fits into your healthy eating routine. Including more omega-3 fats in your day may be beneficial. Try sandwiching tuna fish between two slices of whole-grain bread or spreading the bread with peanut butter and sprinkling with ground flaxseed — another source of omega-3.

**Cooking and Baking** Seed oils such as grapeseed, canola and soybean (labeled as vegetable) have a high smoke point, which means they don't degrade during cooking. In addition, they are good substitutes for solid fats like butter, lard or shortening, which contain more saturated fats.

Using seed oils to prepare wholesome food at home can be beneficial to your health, especially when they are used to replace sources of saturated fat.

This substitution promotes healthful eating and can help to reduce total cholesterol and the risk of heart disease. In general, limit seed oil-containing packaged dessert and snack items, which lack in nutrients. However, there's no need to avoid seed oil-containing nutrient-dense foods such as nut butter and whole-grain breads.