**Fish to Avoid**

Mercury levels are too high
Do not eat the following fish if you are pregnant or may become pregnant, or are under 15 years old:

- Lake Superior Lake Trout (longer than 39 inches)
- Lake Superior Siscowet Lake Trout (longer than 29 inches)
- Muskellunge (Muskie)
- Shark
- Swordfish

**Raw and smoked fish may cause illness**
If you are or might be pregnant:

- Eat only cooked fish—Parasites and bacteria in uncooked fish, such as sushi, can cause illness.
- Avoid smoked fish due to concerns about the bacteria Listeria.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Minnesota Department of Health
  PO Box 64975
  St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
  health.state.mn.us/fish
  800-657-3908

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources LakeFinder
  dnr.state.mn.us/lakefinder/index.html

The guidelines in this brochure are based on mercury and PCB levels in fish from waters throughout Minnesota and mercury found in purchased fish.

Visit health.state.mn.us/fish for recommendations for specific Minnesota lakes and rivers and guidelines for men, older boys and women who are not and will not become pregnant.

**Bought or Caught**

Think: species, size and source
How much mercury is in fish depends on the:

- **Species.** Some fish have more mercury than others because of what they eat and how long they live.
- **Size.** Smaller fish generally have less mercury than larger, older fish of the same species. Unlike people, fish do not get rid of mercury.
- **Source.** Fish from lakes in northeastern Minnesota generally have more mercury than in southern and central Minnesota. How clean a lake looks is not a sign of how safe the fish are to eat.

Fish bought at a store or restaurant also contain mercury. Farm-raised fish, such as salmon, are low in mercury but can contain other contaminants that may be found in fish feed. The amount of contaminants is small enough that farm-raised salmon are still good to eat 2 times a week.

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**Light or White Canned Tuna?**

Choose canned light tuna more often than canned white tuna. Canned light tuna has 3 times less mercury than canned white (albacore) tuna and is less expensive.

**FOR MORE RECIPES**

Visit ChooseYourFish.org to learn how to select and cook fish.
The omega-3 fatty acids found in fish are called EPA and DHA. Our bodies cannot make EPA and DHA. Eating fish is the main way to get these important fatty acids that you do not get from other foods. (Supplements may not be as beneficial.) Here is the best part:

- DHA is a building block of the brain and eyes.
- Pregnant women and breastfeeding moms can eat fish to give DHA to their babies.
- Eating fish can lower the risk of heart disease.

What about mercury and other contaminants? The benefits of eating fish outweigh the risks when eating fish low in mercury and other contaminants.

Young children (under 15 years old) and fetuses are more sensitive to mercury. Too much mercury can cause lasting problems with understanding and learning. But studies show children benefit developmentally when moms eat fish low in mercury during pregnancy.

What to do?

- Eat fish.
- Follow the recommendations in this brochure to prevent mercury and other contaminants from building up in your body.
- Contaminants take time to leave the body, so spread out your fish meals over time.

Fresh, frozen or canned, store-bought or locally caught—fish tastes good and is good for you.

Do the body and brain good Eating fish 1 to 2 times a week has health benefits for people of all ages.

Fish are a great choice for serving up tasty lean protein with plenty of vitamins and minerals. Fish also are a natural source of omega-3 fatty acids—a good kind of fat!