

STOP STRESS EATING TODAY

Stress eating plays a role in many people's battles with weight management. Fortunately, there are many ways to cope with stress without overeating. Here are a few ideas...

DO SOMETHING JUST FOR YOU.

- Listen to music.
- Take a long bath.
- Get a massage.
- Go out with some friends.
- Buy yourself some flowers.
- Get a haircut.
- Take a new exercise class.

FIND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO DEAL WITH STRESS WITHOUT OVEREATING.

- Purchase books or magazines. Go to the library to read them and avoid eating.
- Join a health club. Make a commitment to exercise 3-5 times each week.
- Take a class and learn a new craft. This will keep your hands busy while you watch TV, surf the web, or talk on the phone.
- Leave the house to avoid excess eating.
- Take a couple of laps around the mall before or after dinner.
- Mow the lawn.
- Weed the garden.
- Clean the house.
- Consider buying a piece of home exercise equipment. Exercise while you watch TV.

TAKE STEPS TO MANAGE YOUR STRESS.

- Be aware of your stressors.
- Reduce your emotional reaction to stress. Take a deep breath and try to relax.
- Practice how to deal with major stressors in your life.
- Learn what you can change. Decide what is worth fighting for.
- Build up your physical reserves. Take care of yourself by:
 - Cutting back on caffeine consumption during times of stress.
 - Eating healthy meals. Be sure you are meeting your nutritional needs. Visit www.choosemyplate.gov if you aren't sure about what you should be eating.
 - Getting enough sleep. If you have difficulty sleeping, see a professional.
 - Having some fun. Take vacations and leave your stresses at home.
 - Learning to say no. It's ok to take care of your own needs. Including friends and family in your life, regardless of how busy you are.
 - Setting realistic goals for yourself.
 - Expecting some bumps in the road. Things will get better over time.

(c) Food and Health Communications, Inc. www.foodandhealth.com