

10 TIPS TO IMPROVE DIGESTION

functional
nutrition
alliance 

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EXERCISE

It takes healthy muscle tone all around the abdomen for food to digest properly. Muscle tone to help move food through our digestive tract. Increasing exercise can improve digestion, even if you don't change what you eat.

TAKE TIME FOR GRATITUDE

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When you take a few moments before you eat to pause and reflect, either with blessings or gratitude, you are activating the cephalic phase of digestion. Your brain signals saliva to release and stokes your digestive fires. Both are key to proper digestion.

EAT MORE FIBER

Fiber helps keep your colon healthy. It makes stool soft and bulky, speeds transit time through the colon, dilutes the effects of any toxic compounds and helps to remove bad bacteria from the colon. Make sure you get both soluble fiber, which absorbs toxins and unneeded cholesterol, and insoluble fiber, which hastens elimination.

It's one of the top nutrients for digestion. The stomach needs

DRINK WATER

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water for digestion, especially for the health of the mucosal lining, which supports the small intestine bacteria for proper digestion and absorption of nutrients. Lack of water in the digestive system can result in ulcers, indigestion, heartburn, fatigue, brain fog, memory loss, and constipation.

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REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PROCESSED FOODS

These so-called foods are challenging for the digestive system. The body has to supply its own energy and nutrients in order for these products to metabolize, robbing the body of nutrients rather than supplying any. Stick to whole foods as much as possible.

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BOOST STOMACH ACID

Many people have low stomach acid. Heartburn, belching or gas, fatigue, headaches and much more can all be a result of low stomach acid. Gently boost stomach acid by adding freshly-squeezed lemon juice to your water or by drinking one tablespoon of raw fermented apple cider vinegar in water each morning.

ADD IN PROBIOTICS

We need good bacteria to strengthen the immune system, reduce chronic inflammation, help remedy leaky gut and more. You can introduce probiotics with supplements or with raw fermented foods like sauerkraut or coconut kefir.

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You need three categories of enzymes: lipase for fat breakdown, amylases for

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CHEW YOUR FOOD

Chewing thoroughly will help any food digest. We complicate digestion whenever we eat on the run or gulp down our food. Slow down, savor your food and chew it up! (Saliva contains lots of enzymes that aid digestion.)

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BRING IN DIGESTIVE ENZYMES

carbohydrate breakdown, and protease for protein breakdown. The best source of enzymes are from foods that are in their live, raw or sprouted form. Supplementing with digestive enzymes is also an option if digestion is impaired.