

# Pitta-Type Elimination



Excess *pitta* in the *channel* of elimination tends to cause frequent or urgent stools that are soft, loose, liquid, or oily.<sup>1</sup> Pitta type stools may fall apart upon being evacuated or may tend toward diarrhea. They are also often hot, causing a burning pain when eliminated, and may have a strong (and frequently offensive) sour or acidic odor.<sup>1</sup> Excess pitta can also cause an insatiable appetite, acid indigestion, heartburn, blood in the stool, or bleeding hemorrhoids.<sup>1</sup>

## Balancing Pitta

To return to balance, we need to balance pitta's hot, sharp, light, and liquid qualities with foods, herbs, and experiences that are cooling, nutritive, heavy, and dense. In general, when pitta is aggravated, it is important to keep the mind and body cool and to avoid exercising at midday. In addition, the following diet, lifestyle, and herbal recommendations will help to pacify pitta so that the channels of elimination can return to balance.

## Diet

- Focus on eating a [pitta-pacifying diet](#).
- Emphasize energetically [cooling foods](#), drinks, and spices – things like cilantro, coconut, peppermint tea, coriander, fennel, and mint.
- Include a moderate amount of cooling oils like [ghee](#), [sunflower oil](#), or [coconut oil](#) in your diet.
- Drink a moderate quantity of fluid, mainly at room temperature.
- Try taking a few tablespoons of aloe vera juice or gel 2-3 times per day to cool and soothe the channels of digestion and elimination.

## Lifestyle

- Focus on establishing a [pitta-pacifying routine](#), as this can help to ground and cool pitta's sharp intensity.
- Observe a pitta-pacifying exercise routine:
  - Make sure that exercise is not overly intense; do it with relaxed effort instead. Enjoy activities like walking, hiking, light jogging, swimming, or cycling in the morning or evening (when it is coolest), and try to breathe through your nose the entire time.
  - Practice [pitta-pacifying yoga](#) or a series of gently paced and purposeful [moon salutations](#) each morning.
- Practice 5-10 minutes of [Sheetali Pranayama](#) every day on an empty stomach. A few minutes of [Alternate Nostril Breathing](#) make a wonderful complement to this practice.

## Herbs

- Support your digestion with [Pitta Digest tablets](#) or [Avipattikar powder](#).
- Consider taking [Amalaki](#) instead of Triphala to more specifically balance pitta (if pitta is truly the primary concern).
- Balance pitta systemically with [Healthy Pitta tablets](#).

## Additional Resources

Of course, an *Ayurvedic* practitioner can offer a more personalized perspective on the appropriate therapies for your unique situation. That said, if you are still hungry for more of the Ayurvedic perspective on digestion and elimination, you may find some of these resources helpful:

- [The Importance of Healthy Digestion](#)  
Symptoms in the channels of elimination are often the result of broader imbalances with *agni* (the metabolic fire). As an introduction to the critically important Ayurvedic concept of *agni*, this resource explores *agni*'s role in maintaining health and vitality throughout the body, and offers practical tools for kindling the sacred fire within.



- [The Importance of Agni](#)

This article explores the specific functions of agni, as well as the signs and symptoms of both healthy and impaired agni.

- [The Four Varieties of Agni](#)

This resource compares balanced agni to the different types of imbalances that can disrupt it, and offers appropriate therapies for each type of imbalance.

- [Ama: the Antithesis of Agni](#)

This piece introduces the toxic, undigested material called *ama*, whose qualities directly oppose those of agni. Ama in the body can either be the cause or the result of impaired agni – and in either case, threatens our health.

- [Ayurvedic Guide to Healthy Elimination](#)

This is a more comprehensive look at healthy elimination through the lens of *Ayurveda*; it highlights the importance of healthy elimination and offers some general tips for supporting proper elimination.



## References

<sup>1</sup> Lad, Vasant. *Textbook of Ayurveda, Volume II: A Complete Guide to Clinical Assessment*. Albuquerque: The Ayurvedic Press, 2006. Print. 105-107, 278.

