

Digestive System



Taste Buds The tongue has many taste buds. They are located between the bumps you see. Taste buds sense four basic flavors—sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. You can taste many more flavors because taste is also affected by your sense of smell.

Salivary Glands Salivary glands in your mouth make saliva. Saliva breaks down starches into sugars. It also makes food slippery so it can pass easily down your throat.

Stomach The inside of the stomach has folds. The folds give more area for breaking down food. Smooth muscles are inside the stomach wall. Smooth muscle contracts without your thinking about it. The contractions crush and grind food. The stomach lining releases digestive juices that help break down food.

Small Intestine The fingerlike structures are called villi. Villi have tiny blood vessels inside them. Villi absorb nutrients into the bloodstream. Smooth muscle in the intestine's wall contracts to push food along.

Large Intestine (Colon) The colon absorbs water from the waste that is left after food is digested. Smooth muscle inside the colon's wall contracts to push the wastes along.

Liver The liver makes bile. Bile breaks fats into small droplets so they can be digested in the small intestine. The liver also breaks down harmful chemicals so your body can get rid of them.

Adipose Tissue Adipose tissue contains fat cells. Fat is a source of energy for your body. It also helps keep your body warm. If you eat more food than your body needs right away, the extra is stored in fat cells.