

Ayurvedic Body Types

Vata

Element	air
Body Type	thin, delicate bone structure, low body fat, hard to gain weight
Characteristic	sensitive, spiritual, running late, can't sit still, forgets to eat, routine of the day feels difficult and overwhelming, flightiness, memory problems, easily confused, not too present, baldness
Signs of Balance	sharp, quick thinking, creative, fast talking, abstract, creative types might have propensity toward arts, writing, poetry, music
Signs of Imbalance	gas, bloating, unfocused, spacey, dry skin, hair and nails, coldness and chills, nervousness, sleeplessness, worry, cavities
Organs to Nourish	nervous system, colon, bones
Foods to Reduce	stay away from low-fat diets, raw and cold foods, need very careful planning if vegetarian or vegan to stay grounded and focused
Foods to Increase	warming, lubricating, grounding, heavier foods to calm down, good quality oils, warming foods to counteract coldness
Beneficial	creamy tasting soups, lighter proteins like fish and eggs, mashed sweet potatoes, root vegetables, heavier grains, regular and balanced meals, weight lifting, pilates, yoga

Pitta

Element	fire and water
Body Type	medium body frame, well proportioned, prone toward muscularity, easily overheated
Characteristic	type A personalities, compelled to accomplish things, focused, organized, never misses meals and can be cranky if a meal is skipped (has a strong metabolism), workaholic, doesn't do well in hot, humid climates, sassy, creates problems that don't really exist when feeling too balanced, needs to eat often
Signs of Balance	productive, get-it-done person, organized, has a capacity to work until they drop, energized, enthusiastic, quick but sharper than vata
Signs of Imbalance	under stress easily agitated, irritable, overly competitive and other heat-associated conditions; diarrhea, skin rashes, burning eyes, increased appetite, perspiration, over-working
Organs to Nourish	liver, gall bladder, spleen, small intestine, blood, eyes
Foods to Reduce	excessive spices that are too heating, red meat
Foods to Increase	sweet and bitter foods, cooling and astringent, sweet tasting spices (cardamom, fennel), protein
Beneficial	peppermint tea, fresh lime, lighter proteins (chicken and fish), dark leafy greens (bitter and cooling), sweet vegetables, calming and relaxing physical exercise, pilates, gentle relationships

Kapha

Element	earth and water
Body Type	larger body type, not necessarily overweight, gains weight easily, holds fat and water, strong, great powerful athlete when in shape
Characteristic	grounded, stable, solid, clear about the ways of the world, sensual, strong sexuality, sense of physicality, steady appetite but not overly strong like pitta, can miss a meal, slower metabolism, resists exercise and is slower moving, often trying to lighten up (physically and emotionally)
Signs of Balance	reliable, dependable, calm, peacekeeper, even-tempered, loving, affectionate
Signs of Imbalance	holds on to emotions, lethargic, sleeping too much, depressed, lack of enthusiasm, feeling dull and sluggish, overweight, congestion
Organs to Nourish	lungs, stomach, body fat, lymphatic system
Foods to Reduce	high fat foods, heavy and fatty proteins, dairy, gluten-based grains, red meats, starchy vegetables
Foods to Increase	drying and heating foods, heating and pungent spices for their thermogenic properties, lighter grains, light proteins, vegetables
Beneficial	beans, quinoa, spinach, dandelion, salads, cayenne, pepper, ginger, self-acceptance and body-image affirmations, cardiovascular exercises, love the body you have (Kapha woman trying to be Vata)