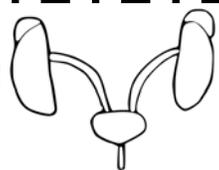


The Excretory System



Humans are living things and all living things eliminate waste. Organs from other body systems also eliminate waste. The lungs excrete carbon dioxide, the skin sweats which is a form of liquid and salt waste and the large intestine excretes solid and liquid waste through the digestive system. However, the main organs of the excretory system which is also called the urinary system, are the two kidneys, the bladder and the two ureters. Kidneys receive large amounts of blood (which contains lots of water) pumped by the heart to carry out their functions. The kidney's main function is to filter excess un-needed fluids and substances from the blood and excrete them into urine. The organs of the excretory system are all located in the lower part of the abdomen. The main function of the excretory system is to make urine. The kidneys help the body to keep the right amount of water in the body at all times, if you drink too many fluids, the kidney will quickly make extra urine from the fluids. The excretory or the urinary system excretes liquids and salts. The kidneys are making urine all the time while they filter and eliminate liquid waste. Blood, passes through the kidneys about 300 times a day. The kidneys also make sure the body has just the right amount of salt. If waste doesn't get eliminated, then our bodies would be full of toxins. The reason that urine is waste is because there are many substances in the blood that the body cannot use and if these substances were allowed to accumulate in the blood stream, the body could become sick. The remarkable kidneys remove these undesirable substances from the blood and make them into urine for excretion. As the kidneys work hard to make urine constantly, the bladder acts as the storage tank but when the bladder gets full, the need to urinate occurs. The urine then flows from the bladder to the ureter and out of the body. The excretory system sounds similar to the digestive system both ridding the body of waste. However, the digestive system rids the body of foods and drink once the nutrients have been extracted from it through the digestive system and onto solid waste. Whereas, the excretory / urinary system excretes the by-products of human functioning.

- 1 What are the main organs of the excretory system and where are they located?
- 2 Describe what the kidneys do.
- 3 Why is there a need to excrete?
- 4 List 4 facts about the excretory system.
- 5 List 3 questions you still have about the excretory system.