

Color Variations of Feces

(excerpted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_feces)

Human fecal matter varies significantly in appearance, depending on diet and health.

Brown

Human feces ordinarily has a light to dark brown coloration, which results from a combination of bile and bilirubin that is derived from dead red blood cells. Normally it is semisolid, with amucus coating.

Yellow

Yellowing of feces can be caused by an infection known as *Giardiasis*, which derives its name from *Giardia*, an anaerobic flagellated protozoan parasite that can cause severe and communicable yellow diarrhea. Another cause of yellowing is a condition known as Gilbert's Syndrome. This condition is characterized by jaundice and hyperbilirubinemia when too much bilirubin is present in the circulating blood.

Black or red

Feces can be black due to consuming foods that contain a substantial proportion of animal blood, such as black pudding or *tiết canh*. Black feces can also be caused by a number of medications, such as bismuth subsalicylate (the active ingredient in Pepto-Bismol), and dietary iron supplements, or foods such as beetroot, black liquorice, or blueberries.^[2] Alcoholism can also provoke abnormalities in the path of blood throughout the body, including the passing of red-black stool.

Blue

Prussian blue, used in the treatment of radiation, cesium, and thallium poisoning, can turn the feces blue. Substantial consumption of products containing blue food dye, such as blue curaçao or grape soda, can have the same effect.

Green

Feces can be green due to having large amounts of unprocessed bile in the digestive tract. This can occasionally be the result from eating liquorice candy, as it is typically made with anise oil rather than liquorice herb and is predominantly sugar. Excessive sugar consumption or a sensitivity to anise oil may cause loose, green stools.