

The excretory system parts



The **ureters** are tubes made of smooth muscle fibers that propel **urine** from the **kidneys** to the **urinary bladder**. In the human adult, the ureters are usually 25-30 cm long and around 3-4 mm in diameter. The ureter is lined by **urothelial cells**, and has an additional smooth muscle layer to assist with peristalsis.

The **urinary bladder** is a hollow and elastic muscular organ that collects and stores **urine** from the kidneys before **urination**. The bladder sits on the pelvic floor. Urine enters the bladder via the **ureters** and exits via the **urethra**. The human bladder will hold between **3 and 5 ml** before the urge to empty occurs, but can hold considerably more.

The **urethra** is a tube that connects the **urinary bladder** to the exterior of the body for the **removal of urine**. In boys, the urethra starts at the lower portion of the bladder and continues through the penis. The **female urethra** is much shorter than one on male. It begins at the bladder neck and it extends downward, through the muscular area of the pelvic floor.

The **kidneys** are a pair of organs on either side of your spine, below your ribs and behind your belly. The kidneys' job is to **filter your blood**. They remove wastes, control the body's fluid balance. **Blood** comes into the kidney, **waste gets removed**, and salt, water, and minerals are adjusted, if needed. Finally, the **filtered blood** goes back into the body. Waste gets turned into **urine**.

Urine is a liquid by-product of metabolism in humans and in many other animals. Urine flows from the kidneys through the ureters to the urinary bladder. Urination results in urine being excreted from the body through the urethra.