

DR. JOSH AXE

# eat dirt



Why Leaky Gut May Be the Root  
Cause of Your Health Problems and  
5 Surprising Steps to Cure It

"Read this book and open the door to lifelong health."  
—David Perlmutter MD, author of the #1 *New York Times* Bestseller *Grain Brain*

## Eat Dirt: Why Leaky Gut May Be the Root Cause of Your Health Problems and 5 Surprising Steps to Cure It

*Josh Axe*

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## **Eat Dirt: Why Leaky Gut May Be the Root Cause of Your Health Problems and 5 Surprising Steps to Cure It** *Josh Axe*

Doctor of Natural Medicine and wellness authority Dr. Josh Axe delivers a groundbreaking, indispensable guide for understanding, diagnosing, and treating one of the most discussed yet little-understood health conditions: leaky gut syndrome.

Do you have a leaky gut? For 80% of the population the answer is “yes”—and most people don’t even realize it. Leaky gut syndrome is the root cause of a litany of ailments, including: chronic inflammation, allergies, autoimmune diseases, hypothyroidism, adrenal fatigue, diabetes, and even arthritis.

To keep us in good health, our gut relies on maintaining a symbiotic relationship with trillions of microorganisms that live in our digestive tract. When our digestive system is out of whack, serious health problems can manifest and our intestinal walls can develop microscopic holes, allowing undigested food particles, bacteria, and toxins to seep into the bloodstream. This condition is known as leaky gut syndrome.

In *Eat Dirt*, Dr. Josh Axe explains that what we regard as modern “improvements” to our food supply—including refrigeration, sanitation, and modified grains—have damaged our intestinal health. In fact, the same organisms in soil that allow plants and animals to flourish are the ones we need for gut health. In *Eat Dirt*, Dr. Axe explains that it’s essential to get a little “dirty” in our daily lives in order to support our gut bacteria and prevent leaky gut syndrome. Dr. Axe offers simple ways to get these needed microbes, from incorporating local honey and bee pollen into your diet to forgoing hand sanitizers and even ingesting a little probiotic-rich soil.

Because leaky gut manifests differently in every individual, Dr. Axe also identifies the five main “gut types” and offers customizable plans—including diet, supplement, and lifestyle recommendations—to dramatically improve gut health in just thirty days. With a simple diet plan, recipes, and practical advice, *Eat Dirt* will help readers restore gut health and eliminate leaky gut for good.

## **Eat Dirt: Why Leaky Gut May Be the Root Cause of Your Health Problems and 5 Surprising Steps to Cure It** Details

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## **From Reader Review Eat Dirt: Why Leaky Gut May Be the Root Cause of Your Health Problems and 5 Surprising Steps to Cure It for online ebook**

### **Olivia says**

Excellent examination on the outcome of our modern day convenience-centered eating habits.

There is so much I learned from this book, so much I found fascinating, astounding, surprising and infuriating.

Some of it I knew, like the incredible health benefits from consuming kefir and fermented vegetables, but most of it I did not know.

I have changed a few of my buying and eating habits since reading this. It also makes a great companion read to Rosemary Gladstar's Herbal Recipes the knowledge in the two books compliment each other extremely well.

I wish the information in this book was common knowledge. It would really cut down on the disease epidemic in the U.S- an alarming amount of which, are preventable simply by taking better care of ourselves and making better choices about what we choose to put into and on our bodies. At some point it became "normal" to submerge oneself and household in a barrage of assaulting chemicals (via air fresheners, perfumes, plastics, cleaning product, cosmetics, teflon, detergent, VOCs etc) and it saddens me that such a massive percentage of the populace just accept it as okay, safe, and pass the habits onto children to perpetuate. I am glad Dr. Axe has begun the conversation about very serious aspects of our lives that we would all do better to change.

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### **Craig says**

Some interesting ideas but mostly filler. Skim it or borrow it.

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### **Zee Monodee says**

There are some very good tips here (get exposed to dirt/earth, soak in sea water if you can, that sort of thing), but on the whole, the full concept of what the author wants the reader to follow sounds rather utopian. Not only are all the supplements and probiotics he recommends probably not available everywhere (and not even online from some places, in case you wanted to ask), the whole way of living he advocates for does cost a lot of money. In an age where most people just make ends meet while having many unexpected expenses thrust upon them every day (those with kids especially will relate to this!), you cannot really afford to put aside money for only organic veggies, rare plant extracts, numerous strains of probiotics, etc.

It stems from good intentions and positivity, but might not be that easy to actually follow in real life.

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### **Justin says**

I am going to rant about this one a bit. I don't think Dr. Axe is particularly bad at this so please don't hate him too much. Pretty much everything I am saying applies to people without MDs who insist on calling themselves Doctor (Dre not included). Dr. Axe is better than most of these health personalities and I thought I liked him when I got this book (though I don't remember why).

Most of the information in this book is good, but it feels like someone read a bunch of articles online and came up with a well researched summary. This is probably good for most readers but it is dangerous as it doesn't seem to be backed by the right knowledge/mind set. Most of the information in this book wasn't new to me so I skimmed heavily. Even in skimming I found a few incredibly off putting things.

First, Dr. Axe recommends apple cider vinegar (ACV) to help with heartburn stating that heartburn is often due to low stomach acid (a popular opinion). This is a bit simplistic as some people who have horrible heart burn for structural reasons, etc. will end up hurting their esophagus more this way. Its this level of thought/insight that seems to be missing (though perhaps this was due to realistic publishers and not incompetence). I pretty much agree with the ACV recommendation, but was put back when the author suggested not to eat acidic food. I realize some people think acidic food is a problem, but to say yes to ACV and no to acidic foods without a clear explanation makes it look like no thought was put into this. It is true that some acidic foods do increase heartburn by doing things like increasing Lower Esophageal pressure etc, it is pretty irresponsible/lazy to make such a conflicting statement without explanation.

Second, Dr. Axe recommends taking bile salts. This is another unqualified recommendation that was irresponsibly made. Bile salts can cause problems, I don't remember the particular problem I was worried about when I considered taking them but they are at least somewhat linked to colon cancer ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bile\\_acid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bile_acid))

Third, he is a bit dogmatic (though less than many) about paleo. Diet is complex and not universal and being attached to a diet causes one to miss this complexity. The someone minor flaw this is related to is Dr. Axe's omission of mentioning fat and how high fat diets can exacerbate heart burn.

Lastly, and he uses the phrase "gastric gut". It is hard to imagine anyone who knows what gastric means saying this phrase without cringing a little.

All that being said, this is no worse than other similar books (and is in fact a bit better than average) and I'd rather see you read this than grab a diet book at random from your library.

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## **Edward says**

Dr. Josh Axe introduces the concept of Leaky Gut, which is the root cause of a lot of modern diseases and health problems. Dr. Axe stresses that we need to have microbial diversity in our guts to keep our system in balance and maintain a healthy gut protective lining. This prevents pathogens, undigested food particles including toxins from entering our blood stream causing undesired immune responses and all sorts of health issues.

A large part of the book talks about the right kind of diet and life style. The author's points reinforce what I learned from a few other health books and there are some new ideas that stick out to me. For example, I learn that goat milk and goat milk yogurt is better than cow milk. And bone broth is the number one food that he recommends to nurture your gut lining. In addition, throughout the book, Dr. Axe stresses the importance of

regular exposure to healthy food-based and soil-based bacteria and hence the appropriately title of the book.

I am impressed that Dr. Axe mixes some of the traditional Chinese medicine knowledge to his diet principles. A small portion of the book touches on the five elements in Chinese medicine and the concept of harmony and balance in the body and how they relate to the different gut types described in the book. For example, when he talks about the Candida gut, he references the dampness of the body, an important concept in Chinese medicine.

We are now living in an age where we have the information, resources and tools to have more control of our health by being more educated in health and nutritional sciences. This book is one of those books that I feel more educated after reading it and I will keep it in the health section on my bookshelf. Regarding how bacterial diversity link to one's health, this field is evolving and a lot of research is still going on. I am sure there will be more books coming out on this topic.

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### **Melissa Crytzer Fry says**

-- UPDATE (6/6/17)!! After following the "candida gut" diet for three months... guess what? No more pre-diabetes (I've been lighter in weight before, exercised more and my A1C never came down, but this time it did)! My cholesterol also is vastly improved; my inflammatory markers are all NORMAL! Bonus: I've lost 17 lbs! And the best part is how much BETTER I feel energy-wise, brain-fog-wise, and just OVERALL. Hip, hip hooray! --

This book was a necessity for me, as someone who has struggled with off-the-charts inflammatory markers and diagnoses that have included "unidentifiable autoimmune disorder" and "fibromyalgia" (not the right diagnosis either) since I was 21 years old. Fast forward 23 years, and I can now add to the list severe joint aches/pains, arthritis, high cholesterol (at age 16), food sensitivities, and the moniker *pre-diabetic* (some years hovering in the safe range, some not).

So, before the term "leaky gut" became a more acceptable condition by the traditional Western medical community, I'd already heard of it back in the early '90s, having done lots of my own research to figure out 'what was wrong' and how I could have gone from Dean's List student with a tack-sharp memory to continuous brain fog and near-debilitating sluggishness. I never did figure out how to fix it... And somehow, over the past 23 years, I have learned to live with all of it and continue to function in my new 'norm.' But now, thanks to this book, I believe I have some real ideas for how to combat many of my issues.

This book tackles the "what" and "why" of leaky gut, a condition in which the intestinal walls become compromised and get holes in them. The tears lead to leakage of food byproducts and hard-to-digest proteins, etc. into the bloodstream and other parts of the body, which often creates an inflammatory reaction and sets off an autoimmune response. (The research the author cites links various diseases – diabetes, autism, allergies, food sensitivity, skin issues, Celiac Disease, GI problems, autoimmune disorders like MS, Lupus, etc., and even mental health issues – to leaky gut).

This book does a great job of scaring the hell out of you (again, a necessity for me, personally) regarding just how non-nutritive our diets are, even if we are eating salads and lean proteins – and what the devastating, long-term effects are on our bodies. Why is our food so void of nutrients? Our fruits and vegetables come from soil depleted of nutrients from over-farming on a mass scale, and they are then sprayed with chemicals,

then genetically modified to be able to withstand those same chemicals that are killing the nearby weeds. (This is not NEW news to anyone, of course). But one stat in the book indicated that your grandmother's orange is not today's orange (You'd have to eat 8 of today's to get the Vitamin C equivalent of ONE of grandma's). The wheat of the past is not today's wheat, either (There is MORE gluten in it, it is less nutritious and harder to digest, and those genetic modifications account for the spikes in gluten sensitivity and Celiac disease). So not only are we getting very little nutritional value from the foods we eat, even when we think we are eating healthy – unless they are organically grown or from Farmer's Markets – many of us also have malabsorption problems because of the lack of good bacteria in our guts that have been killed off by those chemicals, through stress and antibiotic use, and due to leakage (take some vitamins and most shoot right through the holes and aren't being absorbed into the body). We're essentially malnourished, despite bigger waistlines.

The concept of "Eat Dirt" is that we've become a very over-sanitized, over-medicated, over-stressed society, and that our guts are paying for it (Healthy bacteria in the gut is at the epicenter of whether we are healthy or unhealthy. Even my MD believes and understands this). Dr. Axe advocates for eating 'dirty' foods – local foods coated in the rich minerals of the soil; and eating fermented foods that provide probiotic-rich nutrients. His book outlines natural foods and various supplements that may help, as well as essential oils, and 'get outside' activities that actually aid the immune system. He urges people to cut back on Rx drugs and consider homeopathic options, to plant their own gardens (and literally play in the dirt).

I am planning to implement many of the suggestions from this book (especially the addition of bone broth to my diet and the re-introduction of probiotics, plus local honey consumption daily and the addition of keifer to my diet – and well as barefoot walks in the dirt) and will monitor my results.

My biggest complaint about EAT DIRT is that, while it offers recipes in the back of the book and a plethora of suggestions for food substitutions and types of digestive enzymes and vitamins and make-at-home foods that can help, the brunt of the work is still left to the reader to 'figure it out.' It would have been helpful, for example, to offer recommended probiotic blends and brand names; or to provide a detailed 'schedule' for implementing changes – Week one: do this, week two: do this. And, here's a week's meal plan, complete with snacks and supplements. But the book is not structured this way. It's essentially, "Here's the base plan and the gazillion things that COULD help YOU. Try the parts of it that you want for a few weeks. Keep a journal and see what's working. If you don't get results, go to this next section of the book where I identify specific gut types. Then follow those plans for more specificity."

That will likely be a drawback to people like me who generally want books like this to be structured and laid out and don't want to or can't take the time to 'figure it out.' But I *will* because I, personally, HAVE to. As it stands, I have quite a few unanswered questions, such as: After you heal your gut, can you then tolerate some of the more difficult to digest foods like traditional breads or pasta on occasion? What happens if you eat the occasional cookie or have a traditional Thanksgiving meal one time per year (Will you be running for the toilet? Will you be deathly ill after eating so cleanly?). These questions were not answered.

I realize a book can only cover so much since each person's intestinal woes are unique and specific to his/her life history/environment/stress level, but more structure on the "how to implement" side would have been appreciated. The majority of the book is focused on the science of leaky gut and supporting evidence/patient anecdotes. An added bonus, however, are the links to various additional documents and recipes on Dr. Axe's website.

Overall, I'd recommend this book because I think the topic is *that* important. If changing my diet can result in focus/mental clarity and energy, I'm in. As they say, "I'm tired of feeling sick and tired." I will be sure to

post an update once I've implemented the dietary and life changes.

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### **Arminius says**

Dr. Josh Axe offers an alternative lifestyle to many of us to cure many diseases. It blames leaky gut syndrome for many of our physical ills. The list includes, but is not limited to, Anxiety, Thyroid. Weight gain, Irritable bowel, allergies and all digestion problems.

The Gut is permeable and as a result can leak causing substances to enter the blood stream which causes inflammation which produces disease. The two largest culprits that cause a leaky gut are sugar and gluten. They eat away the lining of the gut.

Dr. Axe recommends gut healing foods. The best for gut healing is bone broth. It is made by boiling bones of chicken, beef or fish in apple cider vinegar and water and slow cook for up to a day or longer. If interested YouTube has videos on how to make it.

Apple Cider vinegar is another gut healer. He recommends adding a teaspoon of it to a glass of water when you eat.

Some other tips are to walk bare foot outside, do deep breathing exercises, exercise a half hour a day and most importantly buy your vegetables locally to avoid GMO laden root food.

He doesn't like tap water because fluoride and chlorine harm the body. He claims that store bought soap, shampoo and cleaning products are hazardous to our health as well.

He gives lots of healthy recipes in the back of the book. They include recipes to make home-made soap, shampoo and deodorant. Also there are many meal recipes.

There is much more to this book than in my review. Anyone who has digestion problems should buy this book and practice what is in it. The rest of us will also benefit, I am sure of.

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### **Cyanemi says**

Another in the many books I've read on this topic. Also great like the others. It may be hitching a ride on this fairly new and hot topic.

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### **Sharon says**

Although I agree with his premise that we need to eat more fruits and vegetables and fermented foods, I disagree with his kooky diets. We just need to eat a variety of whole and unprocessed foods. We don't need supplements and to buy things from his website!

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## **Christine says**

An interesting read...

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## **Christopher Lawson says**

I Failed the "Leaky Gut Questionnaire"

At first, I thought this book was only mildly interesting. Then, I decided to take the "Leaky Gut" test. The author uses this test to check the likelihood that the "good" microbes in your gut have been harmed. To my astonishment, I had many of the leaky gut symptoms noted in the test (and which my current physician has not solved.)

Okay, at this point, I got a LOT more interested in what Dr. Axe had to say.

Dr. Axe's main point is that we need to get back to the bacterial DIVERSITY that we used to have: "Bacterial diversity keeps the whole system in balance." The idea is, this balance requires lots of different bacteria. This used to happen naturally in our environment and diet, but when we started to use tons of chemicals, and changed our food composition, we began to reduce the types of bacteria in our gut.

EAT DIRT contains a pretty detailed technical discussion about how our digestive system works, and the important layers in our gut. The doctor explains that these layers protect our body from dangerous pathogens. However, when the protective wall thins, this leads to the "leaky gut" syndrome. The health of this barrier is affected by certain chemicals. Research shows that these chemicals are released by the over-consumption of gluten.

The author cites quite a bit of scientific studies, but he admits that the field is changing, and that tons of research is ongoing. In fact, he notes, there have been over a thousand new research studies in one year alone. There are lots of interesting studies cited that seem to support the author's ideas. Perhaps the most intriguing, for me, was one study that linked bacterial diversity to lower body weight and lower fat.

The author recounts the experiences from different patients in his practice. He is careful to note that a patient's experience should not be generalized to everyone. He cautions the reader to not jump to broad conclusions based on just a few anecdotal cases.

EAT DIRT has links to "replacement foods" so that you can switch-out your current menu items for more healthy choices. Besides these links, the doctor also discusses alternatives for common foods. For example, instead of drinking the usual milk, he discusses the advantages of coconut and almond milk, as well as more unusual alternatives.

I never understood the fuss about wheat and gluten. After all, I thought, how can something so natural really be harmful? Well, the author explains that it's not the SAME wheat, and it's prevalence is not the same as it used to be--its use is far more widespread now. Okay--I appreciate this information. I admit I did not know that.

I found EAT DIRT to be a serious work that will require serious study. There is a LOT to absorb in this book. The author makes many good points, and he does a good job of supporting his theories. The appendices contain lots of notes and further research information.

I have decided to follow the author's advice, and make some changes in my diet and lifestyle. I will especially to try to get more diverse bacteria by making some simple dietary changes. Fortunately, many of Dr. Axe's food recommendations are tasty. I like Kefir, and I'm buying more.

Advance Reading Copy courtesy of Edelweiss Book Distributors

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### **Alexandra says**

yeah yeah leaky gut stop eating everything bad and using cleaners.

I had higher hopes for this. it was better than the last one but only by a smidge.

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### **Lynda says**

If YOU don't think you have leaky gut syndrome, think again. Or you may have a friend, a family member, a colleague or a neighbor who is suffering from various ailments, low-energy, gastrointestinal issues, inexplicable fatigue, or their children (or your children) are having behavioral issues, then it is more than likely that leaky gut is the culprit. Don't turn up your nose at this term. We will start to hear this term more and more going forward as doctors such as Dr. Axe, a practitioner of functional medicine, and his generation of doctors and future generations of doctors to come, start to look at and treat many diseases differently, and take a different path from the conventional practitioners who often look askance at their patients who voice concerns about antibiotics being harmful to the gut flora or those who are reluctant to take a few doses of a synthetic opioid to relieve pain after surgery due to worries about unintended addiction, etc.

Eat Dirt is a book that carries a very important message, not just for America, but for the rest of the world's populations that have migrated to processed foods, an American-diet laden with sugar, trans fats, wheat and dairy, low on fresh and organic vegetables and grass-fed meat, and high on the convenience and fast foods. Eating whole foods should be a default position for everyone, not an afterthought, not after someone is diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure, rheumatoid arthritis, or any of the other modern diseases. Of course, there is also the pervasiveness of toxic chemicals in our environment and the drug-taking culture that play a big role in the deterioration of overall health. America is 'Medication Nation', one of the chapter's titles in the book. There is a cycle of eating the wrong 'food' (if you could call TV dinners, packages foods, snack bars, sodas, refined flours, wheat that has been hybridized with a result that is has more gluten than the wheat of past generations, as food), then experiencing pain or other terrible ailments in one's body, then having to take painkillers or other medications to alleviate those pain or other symptoms, and starting the cycle all over again without getting to the root of many of our serious modern day health issues.

Leaky gut = increased intestinal permeability, a more accepted and understood term in the conventional

medical community as Dr. Axe explains. Mainstream doctors don't appreciate being told by their patients that the root cause of many of their ailments may be owed to a 'leaky gut' where the balance of good and bad bacteria is off, with some cases where the good microbes are gone forever and so the goal should be to leverage a healthy diet and lifestyle to keep our gut strong and happy. Again, owing to processed foods laden with sugars, ingredients that we cannot pronounce, GMO-foods everywhere in the food chain in the US, toxic household cleaners; not spending enough time in farms, parks, gardens, forests, or rolling in the grass with our pets; being overly clean and squeamish about 'dirt'; taking synthetic medications which are proven to cause damage to our intestinal lining plus the modern way of working which comes laden with 24-hour stress which further taxes our immune system and gut health, these all contribute to a compromised intestinal lining. Our intestines are our 'second brain' and responsible for the health and strength of our immune system.

As someone who knows from firsthand experience, having taken several rounds of antibiotics as a growing teenager the minute I had coughed yellow phlegm when having a bad cold; having fed on apple turnovers full of sugar, whole wheat cereals with milk, pizza with salami, snack bars that are supposedly 'healthy', bowls of wheat noodles with tons of MSG, etc. All these factors (and many others I'm sure) have led to some pretty bad inflammation in my body in the form of endometriosis, severe wheat intolerance, chronic sinusitis, missed days off work, trouble getting out of bed, bad temper, inability to concentrate, depression. Glad to say these are all behind me. A big part of that is owed to eating whole foods and avoiding wheat and milk (meditation, exercise, positive attitude towards life, good quality sleep, these all play an integrative role also).

I enjoyed reading the part where Dr. Axe mentioned that he and his wife went to a cooking class in Italy and got to experience first-hand how the restaurateurs select produce, meat and cheese from the vendors in the famous outdoor San Lorenzo market. And how the Italians never cook more than they need for a meal because they are not into leftovers. They only eat FRESH food and locally bought. We all know also that Europe has very strict regulations about GMO foods. Let's hope that the U.S. can turn the tide and go back to a gentler and slower time when it comes to the art of eating. I think we've lost that art. We need to get it back and pay attention to what we eat, where we get our food from. I also echo Dr. Axe on a very important point: Please support your local farmer's market. The dirt and soil still on those vegetables and fruits are a boon to your health. And you're supporting your local farmers. Everyone wins in this case.

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### **Reba says**

I've been following Dr. Axe for a few years now, I subscribe to his newsletter, and read his blog and have heard him speak for many online "summits".

eat dirt is a comprehensive look at how our current lifestyle and diet is killing us. We're over sanitized and undernourished. We need to revert to eating fresh food straight out of the dirt, and ditch the hand sanitizers and bleach.

I myself quite like snacking on dirty carrots now and again. Just bang off the big chunks and eat it ;)

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### **Jessaka says**

When I was a kid my brother talked me into eating dirt one day, said it was good. No, it wasn't. He was always "pulling my leg" as he called it, and I would always fall for it. I also remember making a mud cake around that time, and my mother gave me an old box of raisins that I spread on the top and sides of this mud cake.

Now, I am reading that dirt is good for you, good for your immune system. I can believe this. I knew a woman that worked for a scientist who told her that he never washed his hands for that reason, and he never got sick. And recently my friend told me that when her mother was a baby, the doctor told her mother's mother to let her baby sit in the dirt with a spoon. She had been a premature baby and as a result she was not strong and healthy. Eating dirt actually helped her. My friend said that her mother only weighed 2½ pounds at birth, so her grandmother used to set her in a box on the back of the wood stove to keep her warm.

Well, here we are in 2017, washing our hands constantly, using antibacterial soap. Not me. But eat dirt?

So yes, the author recommends eating dirt, and I listened just as I did when my brother suggested it. I went on line to find some kaolin clay. Why not dig up dirt in my yard. I imagine it has toxins in it. People swore by kaolin clay on Amazon. I got a baggie of it and tried it. It tasted like nothing. How can you even eat nothing? It made me realize how much taste has to do with even wanting to take another bite, or in this case, the lack there of. Maybe if it were sprinkled on a salad or in a smoothie. Kaolin clay is used in Kaopectate. Constipating. Bad idea. I also bought the soil based probiotics capsules. That I can swallow. Next i bought Dirt toothpaste. The cinnamon in it was so strong that I quickly washed it out of my mouth. Then I couldn't get the photo that this woman put of her brown teeth on her review of it. Claimed it stained them. Maybe it did. Maybe trying to help one's immune system can lead to trying out crazy things, not that I don't agree that eating dirt is good for you.

But the book doesn't stop here, he also goes into other eating habits that we need to have, like being gluten free and all the other things that health books tell you to do. But a book on dirt should just stick to dirt, just like the book I read on water, Your Body's Many Cries For Water, was just about water. Mix the two together and you will have a healthy meal, a mud pie. Put some old moldy raisins on and it and enjoy. Maybe a little mold will be a homeopathic remedy for mold allergies. Maybe it won't.

### Mud Cake

Use good smooth dirt that is free of sand, rocks and pebbles. In a small bucket mix the dirt with water. Using your hands to combine the dirt and water, continue add small amounts of water until the mud is the consistency of bread dough. Mould the mud into pies by rolling the mud into balls and then flatten them down. You can make them as thick or as thin as you like.

And if you still are not convinced, here is an article on it:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Diet/sto...>

"It's mostly subsurface stuff and I think that's probably less likely to be a source of infection," said Gerald N. Callahan, immunologist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Callahan believes eating clay may be a way to build up the immune system during pregnancy. Citing what has been referred to as a "hygiene hypothesis," he noted that children raised in rural areas, especially on farms, have fewer allergies and autoimmune diseases than children raised in cities -- some researchers believe exposure to soil and other environmental impurities is the reason."

Hmmm. Maybe it would get rid of my allergies.

Note: While you can eat dirt, there are some precautions to take, which is why buying kaolin clay is best:  
<http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/News...>

"Manufacturers add clay-like compounds to some vaccines to increase the immune system's response, making the inoculation more protective. It's possible that a child's mud pie may be a kind of primitive self-vaccination, letting the gut get used to a selection of common bacteria that rarely cause harm.

Most dirt is safe, despite the thousands of species of bacteria and other organisms it contains."

And while some molds are good for you; some aren't. I was joking about the moldy raisins.

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