

Hey Babe,

Did you know that sleep is one of the **MOST IMPORTANT factors of our health**? This is because when we have poor sleep it can lead to *poor health habits* that don't make us feel our best 🙁

When we have poor sleep, we have low energy which leads to..

- Over eating, because food IS fuel & provides us energy, so if we're low energy then eating/snacking more can be a natural pattern to cope with feeling tired
- Over consuming coffee/energy drinks which can lead to dehydration, increased anxiety/jitters, increased blood pressure
- Being Irritable & Irrational, we can't think clearly when we're exhausted which will lead to heightened stress
- Bloating/poor digestion, a big part of sleeping is resting which allows our bodies to recover & digest what we consumed the day before. If sleep/rest isn't adequate then digestion could be way off which leads to bloating & feeling very "heavy"
- Hormonal Imbalances. Through rest our bodies are better able to repair any damaged cells (caused by stress, workouts, or illness) & also regulate hormones which will help us feel our best so our bodies can run properly

Ok, so I think I made my point on why sleep is SO important for feeling our best & now I want to give you tips on how to improve your sleep tonight!

5 Tips for Better Sleep

1) Turn down the lights & get in bed 1 hour before you want to be asleep. Getting in bed with the lights low can help you start to relax & get your body ready for sleep. Too many people think they'll just jump in bed & fall asleep instantly but for most this isn't the case so giving yourself an hour is more realistic so that you can get the recommended 6-8 hours of sleep.

2) Turn off the screens OR use Blue Blockers! Turning off screens & picking up a book or listening to a podcast/book can help our brains recognize it's night time because we're looking at less light.

BUT I know that some of us (myself included) like to wind down for bed by watching tv or maybe reading on our phones.<u>This is where</u> <u>Blue Blocker Glass are GREAT!</u> They help "turn down the light" for our brains. Along with this, make sure whatever your watching/reading isn't upsetting or too stimulating that it provokes a lot of thoughts before you go to sleep. Watching a silly sitcom or playing a word game on your phone are likely better options compared to being on social media or watching the news before sleep.

3) Set up the right environment for the WHOLE night. Do you sleep better with complete silence or white noise? Do you have a family member or neighbor that gets up early & their noise wakes you up? Do you have a lot of light coming in your room early in the morning? Check out my <u>Healthy Sleep Amazon Faves</u> for setting up a environment to help you fall asleep & stay asleep until you need to get up.

4) Figure out how/if you should eat before bed. This can take some trial and error, but figuring out if you sleep better eating close to bed or not could be a game changer! There can be a fear that eating before bed leads to weight gain but this simply isn't true! You can read more about that here!

5) Limit Alcohol. While alcohol is relaxing & we can feel like it helps us fall asleep better, the sleep we get isn't top quality & can lead to waking up in the middle of the night because of the sudden "sugar crash" our bodies feel once alcohol calories are metabolized, & it can lead to anxiety in the morning vs well rested to take on the day. Having a few drinks a week can be healthy for most but nightly drinking or binge drinking often is going to lead to poor health & poor sleep.

Did you find these tips helpful?



If you have any questions, PLEASE <u>feel</u> <u>free to email me!</u>

I respond to ALL emails I receive as my goal is to truly help as many women as I can be their best selves<3

Best, Ashley