

The BLACK or DARK BROWN Chakra (Foot Chakra)

Location: At or below the feet

Energetically: The most grounding of all our chakras. It serves as a grounded foundation for the rest of the chakra energy system. Through the foot chakra we are able to disperse, into the Earth, any turbulent or excessive energy that may generate in our own energy field. This connection to the Earth also allows us to receive the energy that flows from it. The foot chakra is the opposite pole to the white chakra and they work in tandem to maintain the integrity of the human energy field.

Spiritual and Emotional: This chakra has to do with stability, balance, knowing where we stand, and being able to stand our ground. The ability to stay grounded allows us to develop self-awareness. Deficiency in this chakra reflects as being unfocused and scattered.

Physically: Relates to the feet and lower legs. Greatly impacts the nervous system – potentially affecting sleep, causing restlessness, nervousness or anxiety. This chakra helps keep us anchored in our physical bodies. Caffeine and other stimulants have a detrimental effect. Minerals have a strengthening effect and deficiency in minerals often is the cause of an underactive foot chakra.

Self-Help Recommendations to Support the Chakras

Overall the chakras are supported by balanced lifestyle, fresh organic food, exercise, time spent in nature, meditation and other qi cultivation practices.

In general, some things that negatively affect the chakras include: caffeine, alcohol, recreational drugs (including marijuana), genetically modified foods, processed foods, artificial ingredients, exposure to toxins/chemicals, lack of exercise and poor lifestyle.

Listed below are more specific recommendations to support this chakra.

Affirmation - Repeat the following affirmation out-loud or silently as often as you desire.

“I am grounded, stable, and connected to the earth”

Food Therapy - Certain substances negatively affect the chakras: Caffeine, alcohol, drugs including marijuana, smoking, genetically modified foods, processed foods, chocolate, and poor quality (rancid) fats.

In general, to support the chakras one wants to consume fresh, organic, whole foods drink adequate amounts of water and not overeat. A rule-of-thumb guideline when selecting foods for each specific chakra is that the color of the food indicates which chakra it supports – for instance oranges support the orange chakra, red meats support the red chakra, and green vegetables support the green chakra.

More specifically the following foods may be used to support the Black Chakra - Mineral rich foods such as seaweed, Himalayan salt, molasses and bone meal.

Crystals and Stones - Crystals and stones have been used by healers in many traditions. One of the easiest ways to support the chakras is to carry stones. One may carry a stone for each chakra that is not completely open, but the most important is to carry a stone for the “Primary Chakra”. Selecting a stone is not difficult if you know the colors of the chakras. Just pick a stone that matches in color, for example Amethyst for the purple chakra or Black Tourmaline for the black chakra. Translucent stones are typically preferable over solid stones as they tend to amplify energy. However, solid stones may be used if translucent ones are not available or are too expensive. Solid stones may actually be more desirable for the lower chakras (black and red) as those are more about grounding.

There is a little work that must be done when using stones to support the chakras. When you first receive a crystal, it holds the energy of wherever it came from. Therefore, it is important to cleanse stones before using them for ourselves. Also, when the stones are doing work they will need to be cleansed regularly. In fact, when we really need a stone’s support, we should cleanse the stones every night. Otherwise, the stones may start carrying old, stagnant, or dirty energy and become ineffective.

While there are other methods for **cleansing stones – one of the easiest ways is to leave them outside overnight.** The moonlight will cleanse the stones and they will be ready in the morning to use again. The stones do not need to be directly in the moonlight and it does not matter if it’s cloudy or not. Having two sets of stones makes it easy to carry one set while the other is outside cleansing. You may switch out the stones each morning so that you are always carrying fresh stones. Keep in mind that Selenite is the one stone that never needs to be cleansed. If the moonlight method is not an option, one may smudge the stones with sage, or soak them in saltwater - discarding the water afterwards (however not all stones hold-up well to soaking in water).

Clearing Dirty Energy with Crystals

There's a very simple method that may be used to clear dirty energy from the chakras using stones. All that needs to be done is to select a stone corresponding to the dirty chakra and combine this with clear quartz. Carry the stones on your body (such as in a pocket). The quartz will do the work to clear the dirty energy. Be sure to cleanse the stones each night.

Additionally, carrying Selenite will help keep our energy field intact so that we are less susceptible to picking up dirty energy. Carrying black stones such as Hematite have a protective effect as well.

Crystals & Stones to support the Black Chakra - Hematite, Black Tourmaline, Smokey Quartz, Obsidian, Apache Tear

Sound Therapy - Each chakra holds a specific of vibration. This is represented by the colors but can also be tapped into with certain sounds. The practice of "Toning" uses vocal sounds in order to experience the effects on the energy and physical body. (The lower chakras are lower pitched and the upper chakras are higher)

First set your intention on the chakra you wish to work with. Picture the color associated with this chakra. Then make the corresponding sound as you try to perceive a subtle vibration in the chakra. As you regularly practice this you will become more aware of the vibrating chakras and may even perceive their colors. A number of tools are available for enhancing these sound vibrations - such as recorded chakra meditations, smartphone apps for activating chakras, singing bowls, and tuning forks. These may be helpful, especially when we are just getting started. However, none of these are necessary – our own voice can provide us with the sounds we need to activate our chakra energies.

The sound of the Black chakra is a low pitched "Uhh"

Color Therapy - Colors themselves can be used to enhance the energy of the chakras. Try these suggestions

Dress in the selected color

Visualize the color

Use colored lights

Home furnishings or curtains of the desired color

Select foods of the desired color (more under food therapy)

Carry a crystal or stone of the desired color (more under Crystals and Stones)

Energize drinking water by storing it in a colored glass vessel. If you do not have a glass vessel in the desired color – wrapping clear glass with colored plastic such as plastic wrap will work. Leave the water in the vessel, ideally in a windowsill so that sunlight may pass through it, for 24 hours. Then drink it as desired.

Exercises and Yoga Poses - In general, any exercise that does not cause pain or fatigue is beneficial for the mind, body, spirit and chakra system. The recommendations for the lower chakras are more physically based while the recommendations for the upper chakras relate more to the mind and spirit.

Exercises to support the Black Chakra - Any one leg balancing pose. Walking barefoot in the sand or allowing feet to make contact with the earth (dirt, sand, boulders, etc.). Additionally, devices can be purchased called “Earthing” devices. These are pads or other items that are used to re-establish the body’s connection to the earth. Earthing devices greatly benefit the black chakra.

Essential Oils & Aromatherapy - Essential oils are very strong plant medicines. Not only do they have wonderful scents, but they also affect our moods, brain, and physiological functioning. **While generally considered safe, precautions must be exercised when using them.** Most essential oils are safe to use in a diffuser. This is the preferred method for aromatherapy. **Some people, however, may experience respiratory distress from this method so it is advised not to make the mix overly strong or diffuse for too long (45 min. is plenty).** For more therapeutic benefits, often essential oils are applied to the body, although not all are suitable for topical application. Essential oils are typically diluted in a carrier oil when used in this fashion. **Applying essential oils to the body does run the risk of skin irritations, increased photosensitivity, other side effects and drug interactions. Some people will even use essential oils internally by ingesting them, however this poses the most risk and is not a common practice. Also, please be advised that special caution should be exercised for pregnant or nursing mothers, and for children and pets - even when diffusing.**

That being said essential oils can have a very therapeutic effect when used properly. Some essential oils work on one chakra while other affect multiple chakras.

Specific essential oils to support the Black Chakra - Myrrh, Sage (Salvia Officinalis), Black Pepper, Basil, Oregano, Cypress, Texas Cedarwood