

• **simple squamous epithelium**

- **Simple epithelium** has only a single layer of cells, all contacting the basal lamina.
- **Stratified epithelium** has two or more layers, with only the deeper layer contacting the basal lamina.
- **Pseudostratified epithelium** appears multilayered, but is actually only a single layer with all of the cells touching the basal lamina. The positioning of the nuclei within the individual columnar cells causes this illusion.

Summary of Different Types of Epithelium

Epithelium	Cells	Function (s)
Simple	Squamous Cuboidal Columnar	Diffusion and filtration Secretion or absorption Absorption and secretion
Stratified	Squamous Cuboidal Columnar	Protection; prevents water loss Protection and secretion Protection
Specialized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional • Pseudostratified 	Varies between cuboidal and squamous Columnar cells atop one another with nuclei located at two more levels within cells	Specialized to undergo distension May have cilia that function to move fluids past the cells