

Hand-washing

Ref: *Sefer Ahavah, Hilchot Brachot, Chapter 6*



We need to wash our hands with a *brachah* before eating a meal with bread. We also wash after the meal, but without a *brachah*.

The *Rabanim* instituted precautions and rules for washing hands to 'harmonise' with hand washing for *tumah* and *taharah* so that people will be used to correct procedures when *mitzvot* to do with the *Bet Hamikdash* are re-established.

Reminder

Hand-washing Mikvaot Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Mikvaot, Chapter 11*
Pack on Purification (See Hand washing section)



	Obligation to wash	Valid	Explanation
Washing with blessings before meal with bread	✓		
Washing hands after meal without blessings	✓		Due to danger of salt damaging one's eyes
Soldiers on battlefield	×		Only washes hands after meal
Less than a <i>reviit</i> of water for each pair of hands		×	Needs minimum 1 <i>reviit</i> ESSENTIAL
Intervening items to water on hands			
Forms of water such as clean water ice and snow		✓	Same as for a <i>mikveh</i> ESSENTIAL
Proper vessel needs to be used		✓	As occurred in Temple ESSENTIAL
Pouring must come from power of an individual		✓	Could be persons own pouring or someone else pouring ESSENTIAL
Instead of washing, person dips hands in <i>mikveh</i>		✓	
Water changes colour		×	
Water left uncovered		×	In case a snake put its venom there
Water used for work		×	e.g. used to wash dishes
Water unfit for a dog to drink		×	
Many people place their hands under one pouring		✓	As long as each person get a <i>reviit</i>

Broken pieces used as a vessel		✘	
Colleague uses his hands as a vessel		✘	Considered as broken vessel
A monkey pours the water		✓	
Doubt occurs about the washing		✓	Hands are considered pure when doubt arises, because it is <i>Derabanan</i>
Wraps hands in cloth and then makes motzi without washing		✓	
If one feeds another, the one being fed needs to wash		✓	Even although the feeder is touching the food.
Eats with a fork without washing		✘	Person eating needs to wash even if he does not touch food.