

Tzaraat Comparison in Humans, Garments and House
Ref: Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tzaraat, Chapters 1–16

Tzaraat Comparison in Humans, Garments, and House

Signs	Skin	Head & Chin (<i>netek</i>)	Garments	House	Explanation
4 shades of white	✓				
4 shades of red	✓				
<i>Sear lavan</i> (white hair) in lesion	✓				
<i>Michyah</i> (healthy flesh within lesion)	✓				
<i>Pishyon</i> (spreading)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Short golden hair in lesion		✓			
<i>Yerakrak</i> (intense green)			✓	✓	
<i>Adamdam</i> (intense red)			✓	✓	
Where found	Skin. Must appear deep within skin	Head and chin whether it appears deep or not	Garments	Walls of house below surface	
Minimum size	1 gris 6 x 6 hairs (lesion) White hairs in lesion – 2 <i>Michyah</i> in lesion – 1 lentil = 2 x 2 hairs Spreading - any increase	1 gris Hairs (golden) in lesion – 2 (must be short)	1 gris . Only on sheep wool, linen, leather vessels Garment must be white	2 gris i.e. 6 x 12 hairs . Must appear below surface. Must have 4 walls, 4 x 4 amah made of stones, earth and wood	
Immune areas	24 tips of limbs. Various wounds on skin. Inside of eye, ear, nose, mouth, inside of folds, head and chin etc.		E.g. Hides of sea animals, goat's wool etc	Houses in Jerusalem and Diaspora Houses of Gentiles	

Full coverage	If <i>tzaraat</i> spreads over whole body after a person was found to be impure, then person regarded as pure	When <i>netek</i> expands over whole head he becomes pure	If lesion impure than spread over whole garment it becomes pure		
Interference with lesion	Not allowed to cut away	Not allowed to cut away or shave			Punishment is <i>malkot</i>
Level of impurity	<i>Av</i> impurity	<i>Av</i> impurity	<i>Av</i> impurity should be burnt if impure	<i>Av</i> impurity. If house impure, must be destroyed	
Isolation time	2 weeks. Re-inspected at 7 and 13 days	2 weeks – re-inspected at 7 and 13 days	2 weeks – re-inspected at 7 and 13 days	3 weeks – re-inspected at 7, 13 and 19 days	
Inspection	Daytime at 4th, 5th, 8th or 9th hours. Done by Priest Specific posture must be adopted	Same as skin	Same as humans. If garment must be sent out of city this is done even if it is unwallled (stricter)	If lesion not improving, should remove to outside city and re-plaster. If reappearance after plastering, house should be destroyed	
Labelling of <i>metzora</i>	Must be cloaked overhead and up to lips, clothes should be torn. Inform everyone that he is impure (<i>tamei</i>) – forbidden to greet others, cut hair or launder clothes. Can wash and learn Torah. Dwells outside of the town.				
Purifying process	Water as <i>Parah Adumah</i> in earthenware vessel, 2 sparrows, cedarwood, hyssop, crimson strand. Sprinkle water mixed with blood onto affected person or article. Person must be shaved and go to mikveh and garments are laundered. Offerings etc. Takes place in <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> and Diaspora whether Temple standing or not.				