

Method and Rulings of Wuḍhū

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يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اِذَا قُمْتُمْ اِلَى الصَّلٰوةِ فَاغْسِلُوْا وُجُوْهَكُمْ وَاَيْدِيَكُمْ اِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَاَمْسَحُوْا بِرُءُوْسِكُمْ وَاَرْجُلَكُمْ اِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ وَاِنْ كُنْتُمْ جُنُبًا فَاطَّهَّرُوْا وَاِنْ كُنْتُمْ مَّرْضٰى اَوْ عَلٰى سَفَرٍ اَوْ جَاءَ اَحَدٌ مِّنْكُمْ مِنَ الْغَايِبِ اَوْ لَمَسْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَلَمْ تَجِدُوْا مَاءً فَتَيَمَّمُوْا صَعِيْدًا طَيِّبًا فَاَمْسَحُوْا بِوُجُوْهِكُمْ وَاَيْدِيَكُمْ مِّنْهُ مَا يُرِيْدُ اللّٰهُ لِيَجْعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنْ حَرَجٍ وَلٰكِنْ يُرِيْدُ لِيُطَهِّرَكُمْ وِلِيَتِمَّ نِعْمَتُهٗ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿٥﴾

“O you who possess true faith! When you rise up for the Ṣalātr, **wash** your faces and your arms as far as the elbows, and **wipe** your heads and your feet to the ankles; and if you are under an obligation to perform a total ablution (state of Janābah), then wash (yourselves) and if you are sick or on a journey, or one of you come from the bathroom or have touched (had sexual relations) with women and you cannot find water, betake yourselves to pure earth (through the act of Tayammum) and wipe your faces and your hands therewith. Allāh does not desire to put on you any difficulty, but rather He wishes to purify you and that He may complete His favor on you so that you may be grateful.”

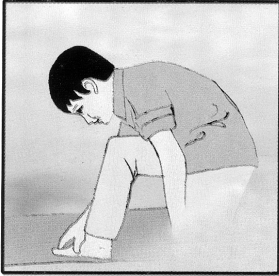
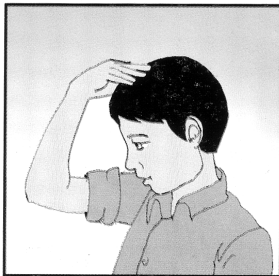
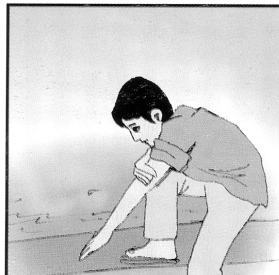
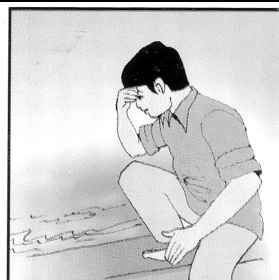
(Sūratul Māidah, Verse 5)

Recommended (Mustahab)

Gargling with water three times.

Rinsing the nose with water three times.

There are a series of supplications to be read during each stage of the Wuḍhū as has been narrated by Amirul Mo`minin `Ali ibne Abi Ṭālib (peace be upon him) which can be found on the third page of this Wuḍhū package in Arabic and English.



Obligatory (Wājib)

Wash face from forehead (hair-line) to the bottom of chin.

Wash the right arm from above elbow to the finger tips.

Wash the left arm from above the elbow to the finger tips.

Wipe the top of head with water in right hand.

Wipe right foot from toes to ankle bone with right hand.

Wipe left foot from toes to ankle bone with left hand.

Selected Wuḍhū Rulings¹

According to the religious edicts of Āyatullāh al-`Uzma al-Hājj as-Sayyid `Ali al-Husaini as-Sistāni

These can be found on www.al-islam.org/laws/wudhu.html

1. In Wuḍhū, it is obligatory to wash the face and arms, and to wipe the front portion of the head and the upper part of two feet.

2. The length of the face which should be washed is from the upper part of the forehead where hair grows down to the farthest end of the chin, and its breadth which should be washed is the part covered between the thumb and the middle finger. If even a small part of this area is left out, the Wuḍhū will be void. Thus, in order to ensure that the prescribed part has been fully washed, one should also wash a bit of the adjacent parts.

3. The face and arms must be washed from above downwards, and if one washes the opposite way, his Wuḍhū will be void.

4. After washing the face, one must first wash the right arm and then the left arm from the elbows to the tips of the fingers.

5. In order to ensure that each arm has been washed thoroughly, one must include some portion above the elbow in washing.

6. While performing Wuḍhū, it is obligatory to wash the face and the arms once, and it is recommended to wash them twice. Washing them three or more times is ḥarām. As regards to which washing should be treated as the first, it will depend upon washing the face and arms thoroughly, leaving no room for precaution, with the intention of Wuḍhū.

7. After washing both arms, one performing Wuḍhū must wipe the front part of his head with the wetness which is in his hand; the recommended precaution is that he should wipe it with the palm of his right hand, from the upper part, downwards.

8. The part on which wiping should be performed is one fourth frontal part of the head. It is sufficient to wipe as much at any place in this part of the head, although the recommended precaution is that the length should be equal to one finger, and its breadth should be equal to three joined fingers.

9. It is not necessary that the wiping of the head should be performed on its skin. It is also in order if a man wipes the hair on the front of his head. However, if the hair is so long that when combed they fall on his face, or on other parts of his head, then he should wipe his hand on the roots of his hair, or part the hair and wipe the skin. If a person collects his hair on the front side of his head, or on other parts of his head and wipes them, or if he wipes the hair of other places, such a wiping would be void.

¹ Please note that the finer points in relation to Wuḍhū have not been mentioned here, nor have the other forms of Wuḍhū such as Irtimāsī nor the Wuḍhū when one has a cast on a body part which must be washed in Wuḍhū. Please refer to the Islāmic Laws of the Marja` whom you follow for more details on these and other rulings. This short guide is simply to acquaint you with the general, basic rulings of Wuḍhū and how to perform it.

10. After wiping the head, one must wipe - with the moisture present in one's hands - one's feet from any toe of the foot up to the joint. As a recommended precaution, the right foot should be wiped with the right hand, and the left foot with the left hand.

11. Wiping of the feet can have any breadth, but it is better that the breadth of the wiping should be equal to three joined fingers, and it is still better that the wiping of the entire foot is done with the entire hand.

Wuḍhū is Obligatory for the following things:

1. For all obligatory prayers, except Ṣalātul Mayyit. As regards to the Mustahab prayers, Wuḍhū is a condition for their validity.

2. For the Sajdah and Tashahhud which a person forgot to perform during the prayers, provided that he invalidated his Wuḍhū after the Ṣalāt and before performing those forgotten acts. It is not obligatory to perform Wuḍhū for Sajdatus Sahw.

3. For washing and making pure the holy Qur`an which has become Najis, or for taking it out from the toilet in which it has fallen, when he becomes obliged to touch the script of the holy Qur`an with his hand, or some other part of his body.

It is ḥarām, as an obligatory precaution, to touch the Name of Allāh or His special Attributes without Wuḍhū, in whichever language they may have been written. And it is also better not to touch, without Wuḍhū, the names of the Noble Prophet of Islām, the holy Imāms and Sayyidah Fāṭima Zahrā` (peace be upon them).

Wuḍhū is Mustahab for the following purposes:

1. Ṣalātul Mayyit.
2. Visiting the graveyard.
3. Entering a Masjid (Mosque).
4. Entering the Shrines of the Holy Prophets and Imāms.
5. For reading, writing, or touching the margin or border of the Noble Qur`an, or for keeping it with oneself.
6. Before going to bed for sleep. It is also Mustahab that a person already in Wuḍhū, should perform a fresh Wuḍhū for every Ṣalāt.

قال رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم):

أَنْ يَهْوِيَ عَلَى الْوَضْوِ، نَهْرٌ عَلَى نَهْرٍ وَ مِنْ بَدَدٍ
وَضْوَيْهِ مِنْ غَيْرِ مَدَثٍ أَفْرَادٌ بَدَدَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ تَهْوَيْتَ
مِنْ غَيْرِ اسْتِغْفَارٍ

من لا يبصر الضحية | أو | ص 14

The Messenger of Allāh (blessings of Allāh be upon him and his family) has said, "Wuḍhū upon Wuḍhū is light upon light and the person who renews his Wuḍhū even though noting has been done to break it (the Wuḍhū), Allāh, the Noble and Grand will forgive his sins even without the person asking for forgiveness (of his sin)."

Du`ās [Supplications] to Recite While Performing Wuḍhū

<p style="text-align: center;">Beginning of Wudhū:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الْمَاءَ طَهُورًا وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْهُ نَجَسًا</p> <p>I begin in the name of Allāh, and only for Allāh and all praise belongs to Allāh who has made water pure and not made it impure.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Washing the Hands:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مِنَ التَّوَّابِينَ وَاجْعَلْنِي مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ</p> <p>I begin in the name of Allāh, and only for Allāh. O' Allāh! Place me amongst those who ask for forgiveness and place me amongst those who purify themselves.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Rinsing the Mouth:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ لَقْنِي حُجَّتِي يَوْمَ الْقَاكَ وَأَطْلِقْ لِسَانِي بِذِكْرِكَ</p> <p>O Allāh! Enable me to answer correctly on the Day of meeting You and open my tongue for Your Praise.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rinsing the Nose:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُحَرِّمْ عَلَيَّ رِيحَ الْجَنَّةِ وَاجْعَلْنِي مِمَّنْ يَشْمُ رِيحَهَا وَرَوْحَهَا وَطِيبَهَا</p> <p>O Allāh! Do not make the fragrance of Paradise forbidden for me and let me be one of those who will smell its scent, its refreshment and its perfume.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Washing the Face:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ بَيِّضْ وَجْهِي يَوْمَ تَسْوَدُ فِيهِ الْوُجُوهُ وَلَا تُسْوَدْ وَجْهِي يَوْمَ تَبْيِضُ الْوُجُوهُ</p> <p>O Allāh! Brighten my face on the Day (of Judgement) when the faces will be darkened, and do not darken my face on the Day when the faces will be made bright.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Washing the Right Arm:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ اَعْطِنِي كِتَابِي بِيَمِينِي وَالْخُلْدَ فِي الْجَنَانِ بَيْسَارِي وَحَاسِبِي حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا</p> <p>O Allāh! Place my Book of deeds in my right hand and a permanent stay in paradise on my left, and make my reckoning an easy one.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Washing the Left Arm:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُعْطِنِي كِتَابِي بِشِمَالِي وَلَا مِنْ وَرَاءَ ظَهْرِي وَلَا تَجْعَلْهَا مَعْلُومَةً إِلَيَّ عُنُقِي, وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ مُقَطَّعَاتِ النَّارِ</p> <p>O Allāh! Do not place my Book of deeds in my left hand nor behind me, and do not make it hang around my neck. And I seek refuge with You from the blazing Fire!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wiping the Head:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ غَشِّنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ وَبِرَكَاتِكَ وَعَفْوِكَ</p> <p>O Allāh! Cover me with Your Mercy, Your Blessings and Your Pardon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wiping the Feet:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ ثَبِّتْنِي عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ يَوْمَ تَزُلُّ فِيهِ الْأَقْدَامُ وَاجْعَلْ سَعْيِي فِي مَا يُرْضِيكَ عَنِّي يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ</p> <p>O Allāh ! Keep me firm on the Bridge (to Paradise) on the Day when the feet will slip, and help me in my efforts to perform acts which will please you. O' The Glorious and Mighty.</p>	