

Purity & Intention: The Rules of Ghusl and Tayammum

A Complete Guide to
Full-Body and Dry Ablution

*Mastering the physical rituals that
unlock spiritual closeness.*

Wuḍū'

Partial
washing/wiping.
(Covered previously)

Ghusl

Full-body wash.

Fiqh definition:
Washing the entire
body in a certain
manner with the
intention of becoming
closer to Allah ﷻ.

Tayammum

Dry purification.
The emergency
fallback.

By performing these rituals, a person attains spiritual purity. The validity of crucial acts of worship (*ibādah*) depends entirely on these foundational steps.

Irtimāsī

(By Submersion)



Submerging the entire body underwater all at once.

Less common, can be difficult to do.

Tartībī

(Sequentially)



Washing parts of the body in a specific order.

The standard, common method.
Focus of this guide.

REMOVE BARRIERS & IMPURITIES

Ensure the body is free from impurities or barriers blocking water from the skin.

- **Barriers (Must Remove):** Nail polish (even breathable), paint, band-aids.
- **Non-Barriers (Allowed):** Absorbed henna or ink.

MAKE INTENTION

Intend to perform ghusl for the sake of obeying and attaining closeness to Allah ﷻ.

Note: Does not need to be said out loud.

STEP OUT OF WATER

If already in the shower, step out of the water flow, then step back in when intending to start.



WASH HEAD AND NECK

Water must reach every part.
Exception: No need to go inside ears or nose.
Note: It is fine if the rest of the body gets wet while washing washing the neck.



THE STEP OUT: If washing in distinct parts (right then left), you must step out of the flow of water between parts.

WASH BODY

Water must reach every single place.

Pro-Tips

- **Wash central areas** (belly button, private parts) with each side.
- **Overlap:** Wash a bit extra of adjacent sections to ensure complete coverage.

Scholarly Differences: Ghusl Nuances

	Āyatullāh Sīstānī	Āyatullāh Khamenei
Long Hair	Not obligatory to wash.	Must be washed (Obligatory Precaution).
Order of Body Washing	Can wash entire body at once (though right side first is better).	Right side must be washed first, then left (Obligatory Precaution).
Stepping Out of Water Between Parts	Required (Obligatory Precaution).	Rulings of other <i>marāji'</i> do not require this.

Core Principle: Continuity is NOT a condition. (Unlike *Wuḍū'*).
You can interrupt *Ghusl* (e.g., to shampoo) and resume.
You do not need to wash top-to-bottom.

Scenario: I finished Ghusl, stepped out, and realized I missed a spot on my right hand.

Āyatullāh Sīstānī

Action: Wash the right hand only.

✅ Complete. You do not need to wash the left side again.

Āyatullāh Khamenei

Action: Wash the right hand only.

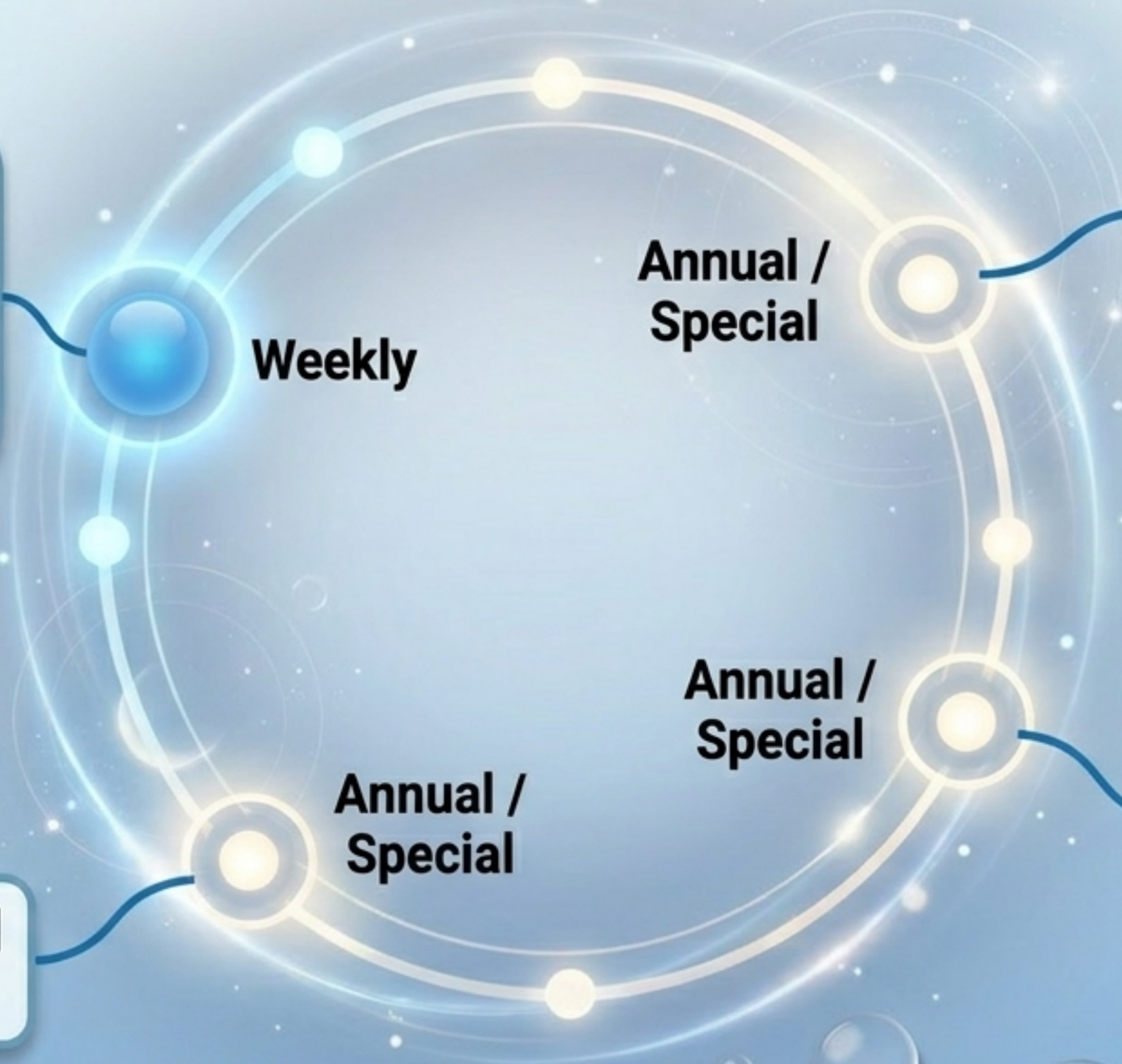
Secondary Action: You must wash the entire left side fully all over again.

✅ Complete.

The Purity Calendar: Recommended (*Mustahab*) *Ghusl*

Ghusl al-Jumu'ah.
When: Friday morning before the time of *Zuhr*.
Benefit: Has the effect of washing away many sins.

Nights of Power:
Laylatul Qadr



Mid-Sha'bān: Night preceding the 15th of Sha'bān

Islamic Holidays: Eidul Adhā and Eidul Fiṭr

Can you purify yourself with water (*Wuḍū'* or *Ghusl*)?

Yes

Proceed with water.

No

Why?

Condition A:
No access to any water.

Condition B:
Water is physically harmful to use.

Condition C:
Not enough time to perform *Wuḍū'* or *Ghusl*.

PERFORM TAYAMMUM (DRY PURIFICATION).



Material Rules Checklist



Must be Dry.



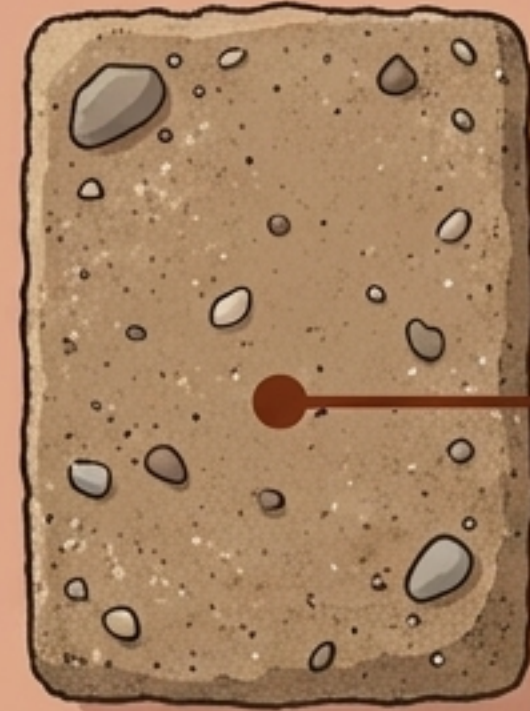
Must be Pure and Clean (*Ṭāhir*).

Scholarly Nuance (The Dust Rule):

Should you shake the dust off your hands?

- **Sīstānī:** It is *Iḥtiyāṭ Wājib* (obligatory precaution) that particles remain on hands; better not to shake off.
- **Khamenei:** Leaving particles is *Mustaḥab* (recommended), but not required.

The Emergency Tayammum Kit



Component 1:
A small pouch that is easy to access.

Component 2:
A pure source of earth, sand, or stone.



Actionable Advice: Keep this pouch handy in your room or your school bag for emergency situations where *Wuḍū'* or *Ghusl* are impossible.

Preparation: Make Niyyah (Intention) + Remove barriers (rings, nail polish from forehead/hands).

Step 1



Strike palms simultaneously on the earth/sand/stone.

Step 2



Pull both palms together from the hairline down to the bridge of the nose (include sides joining ears/over eyebrows).

Step 3



Left palm wipes back of right hand (wrist to fingertips). Right palm wipes back of left hand.

Step 4 & 5



Repeat Step 1, then repeat Step 3.

Note: Steps 4 & 5 are a recommended precaution (Sistānī) but an obligatory precaution (Khamenei).

Practical Demonstration



The Grand Synthesis: Wudu vs. Ghusl vs. Tayammum

	Wuḍū'	Ghusl	Tayammum
Medium	Pure Water (<i>Muṭlaq</i>)		Dry, Pure Earth/Sand/Stone
Direction of Wash/Wipe	Strictly Top-to-Bottom	Not required to wash top-to-bottom	Top-to-Bottom (Hairline to nose bridge)
Continuity	Required	Not Required (Can interrupt and resume)	Required
Primary Action	Washing & Wiping	Total body washing	Striking & Wiping

Knowledge Check: Test Your Purity Rules

Q1: Must Ghusl be performed by washing from top to bottom?

False. (Unlike Wudū', direction does not matter).

Q2: Which day is most recommended (*mustaḥab*) for Ghusl?

Friday.

Q3: What happens if you interrupt your Ghusl Tartībī?

You can continue where you left off. Continuity is not required.

Q4: What is the correct wiping motion for the face in Tayammum?

From the hairline to the bridge of the nose.

“

The physical rules of *Irtimāsī*, *Tartībī*, and *Tayammum* are exact, but their purpose is single: to remove barriers between us and the Divine.

❖ **Primary State:**
Water (Ghusl)

❖ **Shared Requirement:**
Intention (Niyyah) for the sake of attaining closeness to Allah ﷻ.

❖ **Alternative State:**
Earth (Tayammum)

End of Guide. Keep your Tayammum kit packed and your intentions clear.