HAMOTZI: WASHING HANDS

HaMotzi: Washing Hands: When To Wash

Before eating bread, you must always wash your hands.

NOTE If you do not plan to eat at least 1.9 fl. oz. (56 ml) of bread within four minutes, wash but do not say the blessing *al netilat yadayim.*

HaMotzi: Washing Hands: Finding Water

To find water for washing hands before eating bread:

- You must travel or walk up to 18 minutes away to find water.
- If you are already traveling, you must continue up to 72 minutes (in the direction in which you are going anyway) to find water.
- If you still cannot find water, cover your hands with any type of separation (gloves, sheet of plastic, bag, foil, or some other object) to keep your hands from directly contacting the bread.

HaMotzi: Washing Hands: Finding 4 fl. oz. Container

SITUATION You do not have a washing cup of at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml) and you need to wash hands after sleeping or before eating bread.

STATUS You may not substitute a smaller washing container (such as a 2 fl. oz./59 ml cup) and use it twice.

WHAT TO DO You must travel up to 18 minutes away to get such a container when needed.

NOTE If you have a spigot that is less than 12 inches above the ground, you may open the spigot and let at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml) flow out, close the tap, reopen it, and repeat.

HaMotzi: Washing Hands: Procedure

To wash for *ha'motzi*, use the *One-Time Method*, *see* How To Wash Hands the *One-Time Method*.

HaMotzi: Being Touched by Unwashed Hands

SITUATION Someone who has not yet washed touches your hand after you have washed your hands, said *al netilat yadayim*, and dried your hands.

STATUS

- If his/her hand is dry, there is no problem of transferring impurity.
- If his/her hand is wet, this may have transferred ritual impurity to your hand.

WHAT TO DO

- If his/her hand is wet, touch a normally covered part of your body and then rewash your hands and say the blessing on washing hands.

  NOTE If you have already said *ha'motzi*, don't repeat the *ha'motzi* blessing.

HaMotzi: Speaking after Washing

SITUATION You washed your hands in order to eat bread. You spoke before saying *hamotzi*.

WHAT TO DO You do not need to wash your hands again.
You do not need to say the blessing on washing hands again.

HaMotzi: Forgot To Wash

SITUATION You said *ha'motzi* without having washed your hands first.

WHAT TO DO

Up until the time you say *birkat ha'mazon*, you must interrupt your meal and wash your hands.

NOTE

Say *al netilat yadayim* ONLY if you will still eat at least 1.9 fl. oz. (56 ml) of bread afterward; if you will eat less than 1.9 fl. oz., wash without a blessing.

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