TUM'A: CAUSES

TUM'A: ANIMALS

Tum'a: Animals

Wash your hands with a cup, using the *One-Time Method*, after touching any animal.

REASON Due to the dirt (which may carry *tum'a* due to feces and other impure substances) assumed to be on the animal.

TUM'A: BATHROOM

Music in the Bathroom

You should not listen to Jewish music containing lines from the *Torah* (*psukim*) while you are in the bathroom.

Reading Material in the Bathroom

You may not take a Jewish publication into the bathroom if it contains words of *Torah*. You may read a newspaper or magazine that is printed in *Hebrew* as long as there is no *Torah* content.

TUM'A: BOOKS

Tum'a: Washing Hands and Books

You do not need to wash your hands before reading a book of *hashkafa/halacha*/Jewish philosophy or even *Torah* or *Talmud* from a book, unless you have touched something impure/*tamei* before reading.

TUM'A: CEMETERY

Tum'a above Cemetery

Ritual impurity from a cemetery goes up to the sky, so a *cohen* should not fly over a cemetery.

Tum'a within Cemetery

Ritual impurity (*tum'a*) in a cemetery comes from being within 4 *amot (*7 feet) of a grave. This is horizontal distance, regardless of how deep the body is buried.

NOTE A *cohen* may be in a cemetery as long as he does not get closer than 4 *amot* (7 feet) to any grave and he does not stand under any tree which extends over a grave.

Cemetery Blessings

Once inside a cemetery, after not having been in one for at least 30 days, say:

Baruch ata *adonai* eloheinu melech ha'olam

asher yatzar etchem ba'din, v'zan v'chilkeil etchem ba'din,

v'heimit etchem ba'din, v'yodei'a mispar kulchem ba'din,

v'hu atid l'hachazir u'lhachayot etchem ba'din.

Baruch ata *adonai* mechayeh ha'meitim.

Then say Ata gibor l'olam adonai (the 2nd paragraph of the *amida*) to the end of the paragraph. Omit the blessing at the end as well as mashiv ha'ruach and morid ha'tal.

TUM'A: CONTACT WITH DEAD NON-JEW

Tum'a: Contact with Dead Non-Jew

Contact with the body of a dead non-Jew confers *tum'a,* just as does contact with the body of a dead Jew**.**

Tum'a: Cohen Touching Dead Non-Jew

A *cohen* is forbidden from touching or picking up a dead body of a non-Jew as well as the dead body of a Jew.

Tum'a: Cohen and Non-Jewish Cemetery

A cohen should not walk through a non-Jewish cemetery unless he has an urgent need to do so.

Tum'a: Cohen Flying on Plane Carrying a Body

A *cohen* should not fly on a flight that has a dead body on it, even if the body is in the hold or baggage compartment (where it normally will be).

TUM'A: FOOD

TUM'A: FOOD OVERNIGHT

Tum'a: Leaving Cut Produce Uncovered Overnight

Some foods (such as onions, garlic, and scallions/green onions) will pick up ru'ach ra'a if:

- Peeled, AND
- Cut at both ends, AND
- Left overnight in a home, AND
- Raw (OR cooked) and not mixed with other foods, spices, or salt.

NOTE Under the above conditions, the food will pick up ru'ach ra'a even if stored in a sealed container after being cooked. However, if such an onion (raw or cooked) that is peeled and cut at both ends is mixed with something else--whether other foods, oil, spices, or salt--the onion will not pick up ru'ach ra'a.

Problematic foods:

- Onions,
- Garlic,
- Eggs (hard boiled or raw once they are out of their shell).

Not a problem:

- Unpeeled onions
- Cut and open lemons or other produce(excluding onions, garlic, and eggs).
- Raw onion, garlic, or eggs that were cut or peeled in a commercial facility and remain uncovered overnight.

NOTE You may not use an onion that has been left overnight under any circumstances (even if wrapped in clear plastic wrap, put into the refrigerator, etc.):

- That has been cut at the top and bottom, and
- Whose brown layer has been removed.

NOTE Spring/ green onions also attract ru'ach ra'ah, but only if you cut off all of the green and also the roots.

NOTE If the onion or garlic had been peeled and cut at both ends but you sprinkled some salt on it, then you may use it even if it has been left out overnight.

TUM'A: WET/DRY FRUIT/FOOD

Tum'a: Wet Food Normally Eaten by Hand

Wash your hands (without saying the handwashing blessing) before eating wet food, such as a piece of fruit with water on it or simply dry off the food, if possible.

EXCEPTION Food that is normally eaten with a spoon or fork (such as cereal or canned fruit) but only if you are eating it with a spoon or fork.

Tum'a: Handwashing for Bread

See HaMotzi: Washing Hands .

TUM'A: HAIR

Tum'a: Hair Cutting: Washing Afterward

Wash your hands using the *One-Time Method* after cutting (or having someone cut) your hair (or nails).

TUM'A: HOLY ITEMS

Tum'a: Bringing Holy Items into Area of Impurity

To carry a holy item into an area that has impurity, put the item in two nested containers (*kis b'toch kis*).

EXAMPLES

- A bag inside a bag.
- A bag and a folder.

TUM'A: HOSPITALS

Tum'a: Hospitals: Cohen Visiting Wife

A *cohen* may visit his wife in the hospital even though there are often dead people in hospitals but consult a *rabbi*.

TUM'A: NAILS

TUM'A: NAIL CLIPPING

TUM'A: NAIL CLIPPING: TIMING

Fingernails and Toenails on Same Day

Don't cut fingernails and toenails on the same day.

REASON That is done for dead people.
EXCEPTION The only major exception is women before they go to the *mikva*.

TUM'A: NAIL CLIPPING: ORDER

Cutting Fingernails and Toenails in Special Order

You do not need to cut toenails or fingernails in a special order or out of order unless you have a custom to do so.

TUM'A: NAIL CLIPPING: DISPOSAL

Tum'a: Putting Nail Clippings Down Toilet or Drain

Nail clippings, even from children and non-Jews, have *ru'ach ra'a* and need to be disposed of. The simplest way is to flush them down a toilet or wash them down a drain (but don't put them into the garbage).

NOTE Hair may be disposed of by throwing it into a garbage can.

Tum'a: Burning Nail Clippings

Burning nail clippings is OK (but it has *kabbalistic* complications and is bad for the person from whom the nails were clipped).

Tum'a: Burying Nail Clippings

Burying nail clippings is OK but only if they will not become uncovered later. Clippings are particularly bad for pregnant women to step on or over.

Tum'a: Nail Clipping: Washing Afterward

Wash your hands using the *One-Time Method* after cutting (or having someone cut) your nails (or hair).

TUM'A: NON-JEWS

Tum'a: Non-Jews

Non-Jews do not have ritual impurity (*tum'a*) the way Jews do. However:

- If a Jew touches or carries a dead non-Jew, *tum'a* is passed on to the Jew.
- If a Jew walks through a non-Jewish cemetery, the Jew should wash his hands the *Three-Times Method*.

TUM'A: PATIENT REVIVAL

Retroactive Tum'a

If a patient has no pulse, is chilled, and has no brain function but can be revived, there is no *tum'a*. If the person is not revived, the *tum'a* may be retroactive.

TUM'A: PRAYER

Prayer: Blessing near Tum'a

For purposes of prayer while *tum'a* is around:

1. Feces are OK once they no longer smell.
2. Urine and impure wash water are OK once absorbed in ground.
3. Spit/saliva is no problem.

TUM'A: SHOES

Tum'a: Leather Shoes and Washing

After touching leather shoes, you must wash your hands using the *One-Time Method* before saying blessings or prayers or before learning *Torah*.

NOTE If you do not have any water with which to wash your hands, say the blessing or prayer anyway but wipe your hands off on something before saying the blessing.

Tum'a: Leather or Synthetic Shoes

Only leather shoes are considered to carry *tum'a*.

REASON Leather shoes absorb sweat.

NOTE There is no problem with cloth or synthetic material shoes (as long as they are not sweaty--even though they also absorb sweat).

NOTE Soaking and scrubbing leather shoes to remove the absorbed sweat does not remove the requirement to wash hands after touching those shoes.

TUM'A: SLEEPING

Tum'a: Sleeping more than 30 Minutes

After waking from sleeping more than 30 minutes, don't touch your eyes, nose, mouth, ears, or other bodily orifices until you have washed your hands using the *Three-Times Method*.

Tum'a: Missing Opportunity To Say Blessing

SITUATION

You wake up after sleeping for more than 30 minutes and need to say a blessing immediately or else you might lose the opportunity to do so.

WHAT TO DO

Even though you have not washed your hands after sleep, you should say the blessing.

EXAMPLE

SITUATION

You are in bed and hear thunder.

WHAT TO DO

You should immediately say kocho u'gvurato even though you did not wash your hands (but you should quickly rub your hands on cloth or clothing first). If you then see lightning, you say oseh ma'aseh vreishit.

Tum'a: Walking before Handwashing

You should not walk 4 *amot* (6'10", or 2.1 m) before washing hands after sleeping more than 30 minutes etc., but the entire house may be considered 4 *amot* (in the sense of being your "domain" or personal space).

Tum'a: Food Under Bed When Sleeping

Do not keep food under your bed when you sleep; but if you did, you may eat or use the food

NOTE Wash the food three times, if possible, pouring with a cup as you would wash your own hands.

TUM'A: TOILET

Tum'a: Toilet

After using the toilet, you only need to wash hands if you touched the normally covered parts of your body or if your hands touched feces or urine. However, the custom is to wash hands anyway.

TUM'A: TOUCHING BODY PARTS

Tum'a: Touching with Finger

If you touch something that has transferable spiritual impurity (*tum'a*) even with just one finger, that entire hand becomes impure. In some cases, such as if you touch a dead body, your entire body will become

impure (*tamei*).

Tum'a: Scratching your Head

You must wash your hands (the *One-Time Method*) if you scratch your head on a place where you have hair. You do not need to wash your hands if you:

- Touch your hair
- Scratch a bald spot.
- Rub your head instead of scratching it.

REASON Scratching your head (where there is hair) causes *tum'a* because of any impurities that may be there.

NOTE Even if you have just shampooed your hair, you must still wash your hands.

Tum'a: Touching Body Parts after Saying HaMotzi

You must wash your hands again (but without a blessing*)* using the *One-Time Method* if you touch a normally covered area of your body or scratch your head where you have hair after you have said *ha'motzi;* but don't say *ha'motzi* again.

TUM'A: TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER PERSON

Tum'a: Transferring Tum'a to Another Person

After sleeping, a person cannot transfer *tum'a* from his or her hands to someone who has already washed—whether hands are wet or dry.

TUM'A: UNCOVERED WATER

Tum'a: Water Uncovered Overnight

There is no problem with leaving water uncovered overnight.

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