TUM'A: REMOVAL: WASHING WATER

Tum'a: Evaporated Washing Water

Washing water does not have any residual tum'a once it has evaporated.

Tum'a: Reusing Washing Water

You may re-use washing water for other purposes (ex., to irrigate plants) EXCEPT for water used after waking from sleep and the other three-time handwashing categories (which have higher levels of *tum'a*).

Tum'a: Praying if No Water for Handwashing

If there is no water to wash hands, even after sleeping, you still say blessings and prayers. You should say *asher yatzar* even if you can't wash, but do not say *al netilat yadayim* in *shacharit*!

NOTE Even if you do not have water with which to wash your hands, you should wipe them off on a towel or some substance that can rub off any physical impurities that you may have gotten on them while sleeping.

© Copyright 2025 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com