

TUM'A: REMOVAL: GENERAL CONCEPTS

WHAT REMOVES TUM'A

Minimum Amount of Water To Remove Tum'a

The minimum amount of water to remove tum'a (ritual impurity) is 3.3 fl. oz. (99 ml, or 1 revi'it) total, for both hands.

NOTE By starting with at least one revi'it per hand when washing, we avoid problems of transferring tum'a to other people or utensils. If you start with only one revi'it and pour enough to cover each hand from that single revi'it, you will remove the tum'a from your hands, but the water that remains on your hands will still be *tamei*. If you then touch a washing cup, the *tamei* water will remain on the cup and be transferred to the person who touches it next. It is recommended to use at least one revi'it per hand to avoid such problems.

Tum'a and Snow

Snow removes tum'a but requires 480 *se'ah* of snow. This is easily achieved by plunging your hands into a field or yard full of snow!

WHAT DOES NOT REMOVE TUM'A

Tum'a and Moist Towelette

A moist towelette (baby wipe, alcohol wipes, etc.) does not remove tum'a.

Tum'a and Dirt, Ashes, Sand

“Washing” hands with dirt, ashes, or sand does not remove tum'a.