

Wudu' (Ablution)

Ablution is performed to secure cleanliness from the minor invisible uncleanness (Najaasah Hukmiyyah).

Procedure of Wudu' in Brief: For ablution before salah, take clean water in a clean vessel and wash the hands up to wrist joints, wash the mouth three times, brush the teeth, pass water into nostril three times and cleanse the nose. Then wash the face three times, then the hands right up to the elbows, then perform the *Masah* (wipe the hand, the ears, and the neck in that order) and finally, wash the feet including the ankles.

Further details – such as obligatory, recommended, desirable, undesirable and nullifying actions - of the Wudu' according to Hanafi Mazhab are mentioned below. In addition, differences in **obligatory** and **nullifying** actions according to other Mazahib (jurisprudence schools of thought) have been added where applicable.

Fara'id of Wudu' Personal Obligations (Fara'id al 'Ayn)

In Hanafi Mazhab, Fara'id (obligatory actions) in Wudu' are (4) as follows:

- (1) Washing the face over from the one's hair tips on the forehead down to the chin and from one ear to the another
- (2) Washing the two hands and wrists including the elbows
- (3) Performing the masaha (wiping the wet hands to the extent of one fourth of one's head)
- (4) Washing one's feet over including the ankles.

According to the Maliki Madhhab, the obligatory actions are (7) as follows:

1. To make intention
2. To wash the face
3. To wash the two arms
4. To apply *masah* on the entire head
5. To wash the two feet
6. *Muwalat* [to wash the bodily parts one right after another without a break]
7. *Dalk* [to rub the parts washed].

According to the *Shafi'i Madhhab*, the obligatory actions are (6) as follows:

1. To make intention
2. To wash the face
3. To wash the two arms
4. To apply *masah* on a slight portion of the head
5. To wash the two feet
6. *Tartib* [to wash the parts in the prescribed sequence].

According to the *Hanbali Madhhab*, the obligatory actions (Fara'id) and conditions (shara'it) total 10 together, as follows:

1. To make intention
2. To say the *Basmala*
3. To wash the face
4. To wash the mouth
5. To wash the nose
6. To wash the two arms
7. To apply *masah* on the entire head [the ears are included in the head]
8. To wash the two feet
9. *Tartib*
10. *Muwalat*.

Sunnah, Mustahabb and Makrooh Actions in Wudu

According to Hanafi Mazhab

Question: How many masnoon items (recommended acts i.e. those practiced by the prophet peace be on him) are in Ablution?

Ans: Thirteen acts are Masnoon in Ablution,

- (1) Affirming act of intention.
- (2) Reciting BismiLlah
- (3) Washing the hands thrice over to wrist joints.
- (4) Brushing one's teeth with a tooth stick (Miswak)
- (5) Rinsing the mouth thrice.

- (6) Passing water into the nostril thrice.
- (7) Passing one's fingers through one's beard.
- (8) Passing one's fingers across each other as well as through one's toes.
- (9) Washing every limb three times.
- (10) Performing the Masah over one's entire head once.
- (11) Performing the Masah of the two ears.
- (12) Executing the various details of ablution in their proper order.
- (13) Washing the limbs in quick succession so that by the time the next part is washed, the one washed already does not turn dry.

Mustahabbaat (desirable) of Wudu'

Five acts are Mustahabb in Wudu':

- (1) To begin the ablution from the right to the left (some scholars count it among the masnoon acts which seems to be the fact).
- (2) Performing masah on the neck.
- (3) Helping oneself while doing ablution without seeking the help of others.
- (4) Facing the Qiblah.
- (5) Sitting on a clean raised spot for it.

Makroohaat of Wudu'

Four Makroohaat (undesirable / disliked) in the Wudu':

- (1) Performing Wudu' (ablution) in unclean spot.
- (2) Blowing one's nose with the right hand.
- (3) Talking worldly things while doing ablution.
- (4) Performing ablution against the norms of Sunnah.

Nawaqid (Nullifying) Actions of Wudu'

Acts that negate, nullify, invalidate the ablution are known as nawaqid of Wudu'. In Hanafi mazhab, nawaqid of Wudu are (8) as follows:

- (1) Discharging urine, excretion or any other things from one's body.

- (2) Passing wind from the rectum.
- (3) Passing blood or puss from the body (see note below).
- (4) Throwing out a mouthful vomit.
- (5) Sleeping either in a posture of laying or resting the body against some support.
- (6) Falling senseless on account of illness or on some other account.
- (7) Going mad.
- (8) Bursting into laughter while offering salah.

When blood issues through the skin, it breaks *wudu'* according to the *Hanafi Mazhab*. But it does not break *wudu'* according to the other three *mazaahib*.

Eating camel meat and washing a dead person break *wudu'* according to the *Hanbali Mazhab*. But they do not break it according to the other three *mazaahib*.

Direct skin-to-skin contact between a man and a marriageable (non-*mahram*) woman breaks *wudu'* according to the *Shafi'i Madhhab*. But according to the *madhahib* of *Hanbali* and *Maliki*, it breaks *wudu'* if the touching is lustful. According to the *Hanafi Madhhab*, it does not break *wudu'* even if it is lustful.