

لَا يَقْبَلُ اللَّهُ صَلَاةَ أَحَدِكُمْ إِذَا أَحْدَثَ حَتَّى يَتَوَضَّأَ"

“Allah does not accept prayer of anyone of you if he does Hadath (passes wind) till he performs the ablution.” (Bukhari no. 6954)

مختصر صفة وضوء النبي ﷺ

Summarised Description of the Ablution of the Prophet ﷺ

Compiled by
Mohammed Ibrahim Hussain
(Research Center for Hadith)

Based on the works of
Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

Published By
The Research Center for Hadith

Summarised Description of the Wudu' (Ablution) of the Prophet ﷺ

Actions Before Performing Wudu'

Intention

This is the firm intention and resolve in the heart to perform Wudu' in obedience to the order of Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.¹

Intention is obligatory for every act of purification to remove ritual impurity.²

Saying Bismillah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

(In the name of Allah)

Saying Bismillah at the time of performing Wudu' is recommended.³

Using Siwak (Tooth-Stick)

Using Siwak before starting Wudu' is Sunnah.⁴

Start from The Right Before the Left

To start from the right before the left when performing Wudu' is Sunnah.⁵

¹ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 1)

² **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 57) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

³ **Reference:** Watch the Q&A with the shaykh -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GuKwmyY-f0> - Is the Tasmiyah from the obligatory acts of Wudu'?

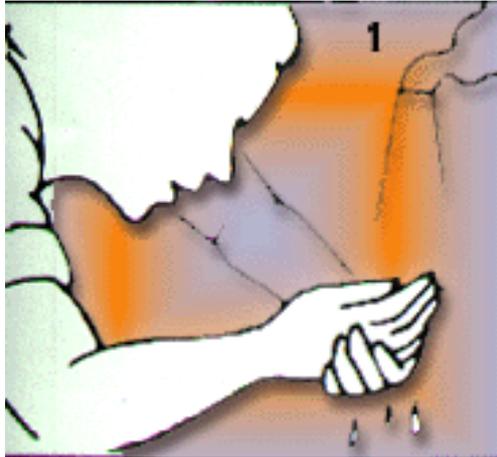
⁴ **Sahih:** Recorded in Musnad Ahmad (4/116). Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 63) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

⁵ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 168).

Step by Step Description of the Wudu' of the Prophet ﷺ

The following is a step by step description of the Wudu' of the Prophet ﷺ :

1st Step: Washing The Hands Before Performing Wudu'



Begin with washing the hands before performing Wudu'.⁶

2nd Step: Performing Madmadah (Rinsing The Mouth), Nose and Expelling the Water from The Nose

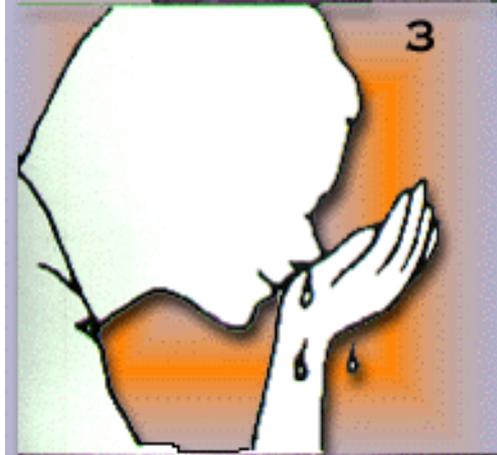


Al-Madmadah: It is washing the mouth and moving the water around within it.⁷

⁶ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 159) and Sahih Muslim (no.226)

⁷ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 199)

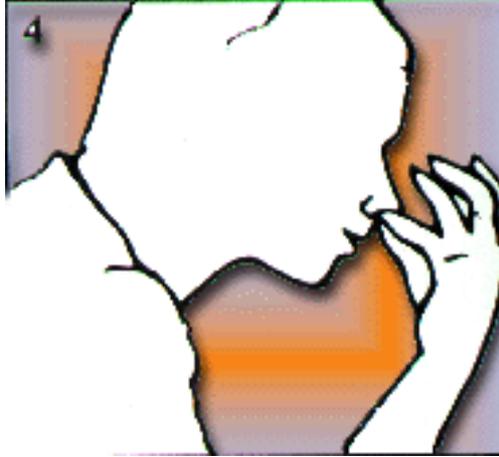
3rd Step: Performing Istinshaaq (Taking Water into the Nose), Expelling the Water from The Nose



Al-Istinshaaq: It is taking water into the nose and sniffing it into its backmost part.⁸

⁸ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 199)

4th Step: Performing Istinthaar (Expelling the Water from The Nose)



Al-Istinthaar: It is expelling the water from the nose after sniffing water in it.⁹

It is Sunnah to rinse the mouth and sniff water in the nose with the right hand, that is what is apparent from the narration and there is no difference in the narrations from the Prophet ﷺ, nor from the actions of the Sahabah (companions of the Prophet ﷺ).

Using One Handful of Water

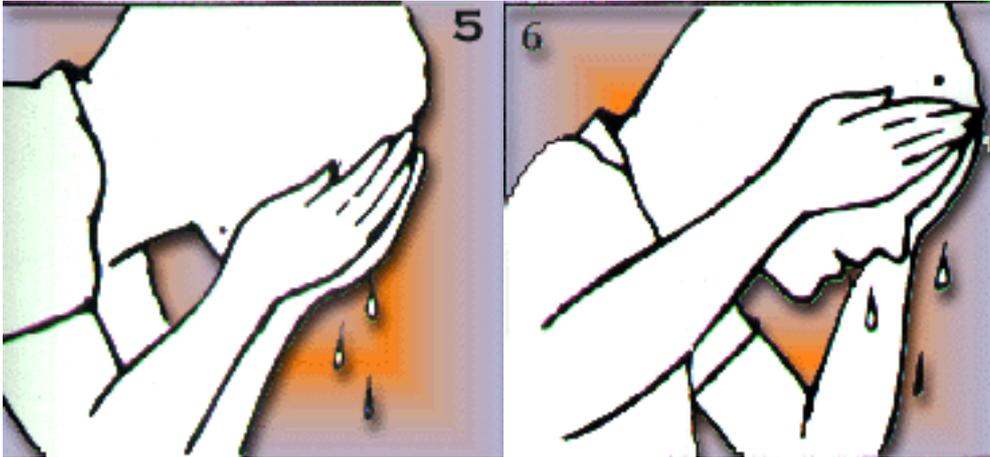
The Sunnah is to take water for rinsing the mouth and sniffing the nose with one handful; in one motion and to do that thrice, without separating between them.¹⁰

⁹ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 164)

¹⁰ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 199)

5th & 6th Step: Washing the Whole Face and the Beard

The face (Wajh): is determined as being everything between the beginning of the hairline down to the chin, and from the start of one ear to the start of the other ear.



Washing the face is from the obligatory acts of Wudu' by the agreement of the scholars.¹¹

It is Sunnah to wash the face with both hands and not just one.¹²

Running Water Through the Beard with the Fingers

Running water through the beard with the fingers is done when washing the face. For one who has a beard he should use the water left after washing his face to run water through his beard.

It is not obligatory to run fingers through the beard, (rather it is recommended.)¹³

¹¹ **Qur'an:** Surah Ma'idah, 5:6 and in the authentic narrations recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 164) and Sahih Muslim (no.226).

¹² **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 140)

¹³ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 130-131) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

The Difference in Ruling for Washing the Thin and Thick Beard

Beards are of two types:

- 1) Thin beard:** As for a thin beard through which the skin may be seen, both the inner layer (the skin) and outer surface must be washed.
- 2) Thick beard:** As for the thick beard; one is to wash the outer surface of the beard, but it is not obligatory to wash the inner layers or the skin beneath it, but it is prescribed to run the fingers through it.¹⁴

Three Ways of Running Water Through the Beard

- 1) Insert the fingers through the beard until they reached the roots of the beard.
- 2) To wipe the outer part of the beard.
- 3) Pouring water directly on it and rubbing it rigorously.¹⁵

Running water through the beard once is sufficient. If the beard is very thick, there is nothing wrong with running water through the beard during each washing of the face.

Getting Fresh Water to Run Through the Beard

What is apparent from the narrations of the Prophet ﷺ and the action of the Sahabah is that they would not take fresh water to run through the beard.

¹⁴ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 134) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

¹⁵ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 131-134) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

7th Step: Washing The Arms Including the Elbows



Washing the arms from the fingertips up to and including the elbows is from the obligatory acts of Wudu' with no disagreement amongst the scholars.¹⁶

It has been legislated to wash the hands from the fingertips up to and including the elbows after washing the face.¹⁷

Running Water Between the Fingers

Running water between the fingers is Sunnah.¹⁸ Running water through the fingers is done by entering water between the fingers and washing them using the fingers.

¹⁶ **Qur'an:** Surah Ma'idah, 5:6 and in the authentic narrations recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 159) and Sahih Muslim (no. 226).

¹⁷ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 97) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

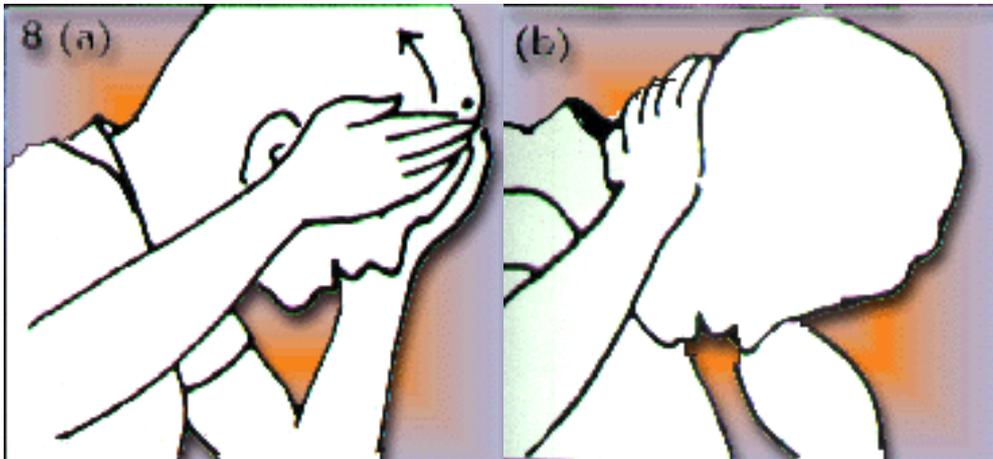
¹⁸ **Sahih:** Recorded in Musnad of Imam Ahmad (no. 16381), Sunan Abu Dawood (no.142), Sunan At-Tirmidhi (no.788) and he graded it Hasan Sahih and Sunan An-Nasa'i (no.114).

Adjusting The Ring On the Finger for Wudu'

It is recommended to adjust the ring on the finger even if water can reach underneath it without adjustment.

As for if the ring is tight on the finger to the extent that water is prevented from flowing underneath, then it becomes obligatory to adjust the ring so water can reach the skin.¹⁹

8th Step: Wiping The Whole Head



Wiping the head is from the obligatory acts of Wudu' with no difference of opinion on it.²⁰

Taking Fresh Water Again to Wipe the Head

The Sunnah is to take fresh water, after washing the hands and arms, to wipe the head.²¹

¹⁹ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 103-104) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

²⁰ **Reference:** Ijma' on that was made by imam Nawawi in his explanation of Muslim (1/205), Imam Ibn Rushd in Bidayatul Mujtahid (1/19) and Imam ibn Qudamah in Al-Mughni (1/92)

²¹ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Muslim (no.236)

The Description of Wiping the Head

It is Sunnah to pass wet hands over the head from its front to its back and vice versa - beginning from the front and taking them to the back of the head up to the nape of the neck and then bringing them to the front again from where one started.²²

Wiping The Back of the Head

It has not been confirmed from the Prophet ﷺ that he wiped the back of his head. The back of the head meaning: below the hairline at the back of the head.²³

Number of Times to Wipe the Head

The wiping of the head is done once and it has not been confirmed to wipe it thrice from the Prophet ﷺ and nor from any of his companions.²⁴

Wiping The Head for The One Who Is Bald

The ruling for the one who is bald is the same as the one who has hair - he must wipe his head the same way if he was to have hair.²⁵

Wiping Long Hair

Hair that descends below the hairline at the back of the head do not need to be wiped.²⁶

²² **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 185) and Sahih Muslim (no. 235).

²³ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 111) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

²⁴ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 159) and Sahih Muslim (no. 226). Many other narrations also.

²⁵ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 116) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

²⁶ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 117-119) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

9th Step: Wiping The Ears



Wiping the ears is Sunnah. Some scholars have mentioned there is Ijma' (consensus of the scholars) on that.²⁷

Wiping the ears, the inside with the forefinger and the outside with the thumb.²⁸

Number of Times to Wipe the Ears

Wiping the ears is mentioned in the description of Wudu' with the head so it takes its same ruling in number also, meaning to wipe them once.²⁹

²⁷ **Reference:** At-Tamhīd of Ibn Abdul Barr (4/37).

²⁸ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sunan Nasa'i (no. 102)

²⁹ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 129) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

10th Step: Washing The Feet One at A Time



Washing the feet is from the obligations of Wudu'.³⁰

Washing Between the Toes

The narrations related to washing between the toes have hidden defects in them (which make the narrations weak). The washing between the fingers has been confirmed generally.³¹

³⁰ **Qur'an:** Surah Ma'idah, 5:6 and in the authentic narrations recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 159) and Sahih Muslim (no. 226).

³¹ **Sahih:** Recorded in Musnad of Imam Ahmad (no. 16381), Sunan Abu Dawood (no.142), Sunan At-Tirmidhi (no.788) and he (At-Tirmidhi) graded it Hasan Sahih and Sunan An-Nasa'i (no.114)

11th Step: Words of Remembrance and Invocations After Performing Wudu'

It has been established from the Prophet ﷺ that he would say after performing Wudu':

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

“I testify that there is no deity deserving of worship in truth except Allah, the One, there is no associate with Him and I testify that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger.”³²

In another another narration:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ

“I testify that there is no deity deserving of worship in truth except Allah and that Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His messenger” - the reward of that statement is when he said: “The eight gates of Paradise would be opened for him and he may enter through whichever of them he wishes.”³³

It is also authentically attributed to Abu Sa'īd Al-Khudri (رضي الله عنه) that he would say, “Whoever makes Wudu' then says upon finishing the wudu':

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ، وَبِحَمْدِكَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ.

“Glory is to You, O Allah, and praise; I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but You. I seek Your forgiveness and turn to You in repentance.” It is written in a parchment, then sealed and is not opened till Judgement Day.”³⁴

³² **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Muslim (no.234b)

³³ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Muslim (no.234a)

³⁴ **Sahih:** Recorded by An-Nasa'i, 'Amalul-Yawm wal-Laylah, p. 173. Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe declared it Sahih in Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ (pg. 156)

Looking Towards the Sky After Wudu'

As for looking towards the sky after performing Wudu' before saying the words of remembrance or invocation, this has not been confirmed in any narration.³⁵

End of the Description of Wudu'

Some Extra Rulings Related to Wudu'

Performing The Wudu' In The Order Mentioned in The Verse of the Quran

Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) says: "O you who believe! When you prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles."³⁶

It is not authentically proven that the Prophet ﷺ differed with the order of Wudu' that is mentioned in the ayah - not even once.

The obligation of washing the parts in its sequential order (that is mentioned in the ayah) is the opinion of the majority of the scholars.

Washing Each Body Part of Wudu' Immediately After the Previous One - Leaving No Time Gap in Between

It has not been authentically proven from the Prophet ﷺ, nor from any of the companions to have a long break between washing the limbs of Wudu',

As for a short break between the washing of the limbs of Wudu', then there is no harm in doing that, there is no difference on that according to the view of the Salaf and it does not nullify the Wudu' according to Ijma', which was made by Abu Hamid and An-Nawawi.³⁷

³⁵ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 156-157) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

³⁶ **Qur'an:** Surah Ma'idah, 5:6

³⁷ **Reference:** Al-Majmoo' of Nawawi (1/452).

Facing The Direction of the Qiblah When Performing Wudu'

Facing the direction of the Qiblah while performing Wudu' is not confirmed from the Sunnah.³⁸

Staying Silent Whilst Performing Wudu'

There is no problem if one speaks or stays silent whilst performing Wudu', for there is nothing confirmed from the Prophet ﷺ on this subject.³⁹

Wiping Off the Water from Oneself After Wudu'

It has not been confirmed from the Prophet ﷺ that he wiped the water from Wudu' from himself, the narrations that mention wiping are all weak.⁴⁰

It has been narrated from some companions that they would wipe the water from themselves after Wudu'. It is authentically proven from Anas ibn Malik⁴¹, Hasan bin Ali⁴² and others.

It is not known from any of the companions of the Prophet ﷺ that they disliked wiping the water from the body after Wudu'.⁴³

³⁸ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 65) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

³⁹ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 154) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

⁴⁰ **Reference:** Recorded in Sunan Tirmidhi (no. 53)

⁴¹ **Reference:** Recorded by ibn Abi Shaybah in his Musannaf (no. 1582)

⁴² **Reference:** Recorded by ibn Abi Shaybah in his Musannaf (no. 1574)

⁴³ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 160-161) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe

Performing Two Units (Rak'ahs) Of Prayer After Completing Wudu'

It is Sunnah to perform two units of prayer after performing Wudu'.⁴⁴

It is allowed to combine intentions (when praying the two units of prayer after Wudu') like combining with Tahiyatul Masjid, Sunnah Rawatib⁴⁵, two units of prayer between the Adhan and Iqamah, Salat-ul Duha (forenoon prayer) and other than that.⁴⁶

**All Praise Is Due to Allah and His Blessings and Peace Be Upon His Prophet,
His Family and His Companions.**

⁴⁴ **Sahih:** Recorded in Sahih Bukhari (no. 164) and Sahih Muslim (no.226)

⁴⁵ **Rawatib:** These are specific voluntary prayers which are connected to the obligatory prayers.

⁴⁶ **Reference:** Refer to 'Sifatu Wudu an-Nabi ﷺ' (pg. 157) by Shaykh Abdul Aziz bin Marzouq At-Tarefe