

Najasah — what makes something impure

Not everything dirty is impure, and most impurity is easily removed. What najasah is, and what water does to it.



★ Purify your clothing

وَتِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ

“And your clothing purify.” A pure body, a pure garment and a pure place are conditions of a valid prayer.

Qur'an 74:4

★ What is impure

Urine, stool, flowing blood, pus, vomit, wine, maytah and its parts, the pig — and the dog in the Shafi'i reckoning.

Qur'an 5:3 · 5:90 · Sahih al-Bukhari 172

★ What is not

Sweat, tears, saliva and mucus are pure. So is mani in the Shafi'i view — 'A'ishah would simply scratch it dry off his garment ﷺ.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Taharah

★ Mughallazah · the heavy

The dog and the pig. In the Shafi'i school, which Malaysia follows: seven washes, one of them mixed with earth or clay.

Sahih al-Bukhari 172 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Taharah

★ Mukhaffafah · the light

The urine of a boy under two who takes only milk: sprinkle water over the whole spot. He ﷺ did not wash it out.

Sahih al-Bukhari 223

★ Mutawassitah · the rest

Everything else. Wash until the colour, the smell and the taste are gone. A trace that will not come out is excused.

an-Nawawi, al-Majmu'

★ A bucket of water

A bedouin urinated in the masjid. He ﷺ stopped the people from seizing him, poured water over the spot, and said: be easy on people.

Sahih al-Bukhari 220 · 221

★ Doubt does not undo certainty

If you were pure and are merely unsure, you are still pure. He ﷺ said: do not leave the prayer until you hear a sound or find a smell.

Sahih al-Bukhari 137

★ Istinja'

Clean yourself after relieving yourself — with water, or with stones and their like. Never with a bone or with dung.

Sahih al-Bukhari 155 · 156