

Tayammum — when there is no water

Clean earth, the face and the hands — and the prayer is not missed. What makes tayammum valid, and how long it lasts.



1 The licence itself

فَلَمْ تَجِدُوا مَاءً فَتَيَمَّمُوا صَعِيدًا طَيِّبًا

“...and do not find water, then seek clean earth and wipe over your faces and hands with it.”

Qur'an 5:6 · 4:43

2 Given to this ummah

“The earth has been made for me a place of prayer and a means of purification” — so a Muslim may pray wherever the time finds him.

Sahih al-Bukhari 335

3 When you may use it

No water within reach; too little, and it is needed for drinking; or water would harm an illness, a wound or a surgical site.

- Severe cold with no means to warm the water

Qur'an 4:43 · Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Taharah · hasan

4 What you strike

Clean earth — dust, sand, a dusty stone or wall. The Shafi'i school asks for dust that clings; others allow any clean ground.

Qur'an 5:6 · an-Nawawi, al-Majmu'

5 How it is done

Intend it, say Bismillah, strike the earth with both palms, shake off the excess, then wipe the face, then the hands.

- 'Ammar was taught it in that one simple form

Sahih al-Bukhari 338 · 339

6 It replaces ghusl too

A man in janabah with no water was told: perform tayammum with clean earth, and that is enough for you.

Sahih al-Bukhari 348

7 No hardship intended

The same verse closes: Allah does not intend difficulty for you, but intends to purify you and complete His favour upon you.

Qur'an 5:6

8 How long it lasts

Until water is found or the excuse ends. Shafi'i: one tayammum for one obligatory prayer; the Hanafis let one serve several.

an-Nawawi, al-Majmu'

9 When water appears after

A prayer already offered with tayammum stands and is not repeated. Make wudu for the next one.

Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Taharah · sahih