

Jewish Custom of Purification



- **Mikveh:** A ritual bath in a pool of natural water that cleanses and restores ritual purity. The Mishna, the Jewish code of law, specifies the requirements for the water and the amount needed for cleansing.
- **Niddah:** The practice of cleansing after menstruation. Jewish law requires women to immerse themselves in a mikveh after menstruation to become ritually pure again
- **Taharah:** The ritual washing and cleansing of a Jew's body before burial.
- **Washing hands:** In some

situations, such as after meals, waking up, or performing excretory functions, only the hands are washed.

- **Washing the deceased:** The most common custom is to wash the deceased with nine kav of water
- **Other situations that require ritual purification include:**

Childbirth

Nocturnal emission

Unusual bodily fluids

Skin disease

Certain animal sacrifices

[Wikipedia/Britannica]

PURIFICATION—the process by which a person unclean, according to the Levitical law, and thereby cut off from the sanctuary and the festivals, was restored to the enjoyment of all these privileges.

The great annual purification of the people was on the Day of Atonement (q.v.).

But in the details of daily life there were special causes of ceremonial uncleanness which were severally provided for by ceremonial laws enacted for each separate case. For example, the case of the leper (Lev. 13, 14), and of the house defiled by leprosy (14:49–53; see also Matt. 8:2–4). Uncleanness from touching a dead body (Num. 19:11; Hos. 9:4; Hag. 2:13; Matt. 23:27; Luke 11:44). The case of the high priest and of the Nazarite (Lev. 21:1–4, 10, 11; Num. 6:6, 7; Ezek. 44:25). Purification was effected by bathing and washing the clothes (Lev. 14:8, 9); by washing the hands (Deut. 21:6; Matt. 27:24); washing the hands and feet (Ex. 30:18–21; Heb. 6:2, “baptisms”, R.V. marg., “washings;” 9:10); sprinkling with blood and water (Ex. 24:5–8; Heb. 9:19), etc. Allusions to this rite are found in Ps. 26:6; 51:7; Ezek. 36:25; Heb. 10:22.¹

[Easton Bible Dictionary]
