

Kaarah

Kitzur Hilchos Yerushalmi – Halacha derived from Gemara Yerushalmi

– Maamarei Mordechai

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Eating bread

One must wash hands before touching bread, washing with a basin, and alternating hands. One must wash hands after a meal but only wash with one pour per hand. The water needs only to touch the fingers. *Editor's note: for mayim achronim it need not be water at all. Cleaning hands on napkins, wet wipes, or dipping into a water bowl suffices. The mayim rishonim is a ceremony for tummeh-taharah so it must be washed in sequence – alternating hands. However, mayim achronim is just to assure clean hands, and that can be accomplished any which way.*

Washing for bread requires washing the hand until the knuckles. It is the practice to be stringent and wash until the wrist, like the Kohanim would do before eating Kodshim.

These laws of washing for bread are the same as washing for any food that has moisture on it, particularly fruits and vegetables. *Because these laws are only rules to remind one of the previous practices, and the oncoming practices in the time of rebuilding the Beis HaMikdash, many are not careful about washing, except for bread. One should be more careful to wash before any foods and wash with a basin, until at least the knuckles, alternating, for all wet fruits and vegetables.*

One need not be concerned to get water to wash for bread unless it is near. A person traveling should wait if water will be available ahead within a couple of miles. A worker is not allowed to break from work to search for water. One who cannot find water may rely on the morning washing, if he kept his hands clean, in a bind. *Editor's note: these days when tummeh-taharah is not followed because there is no kodshim, we can be lenient. Washing before bread is only a reminder of former practices. If one does not have water and he wants to be stringent he should cover his hands with a cloth or hold the bread with a barrier. It should also be noted that this is for touching bread. Many make the mistake of only washing when eating bread, but they prepare the bread before washing. This is the wrong practice. The point of the washing is for hand cleanliness when touching bread and to follow tummeh-taharah laws. Therefore, the washing should be before touching the bread – before making the sandwich. Even under the circumstances where the brocho will be on the food on top of the bread and not the bread itself, e.g., herring, one must wash before touching the bread. One may move the bread to the location of the meal without washing first but should inspect to make sure it is done with clean hands.*

Meals

Commencing a meal, the order of washing is the one making the brocho washes last. The host should be the one to recite the brocho.

Birchas HaMazon

The one who will recite the *zimun* washes first. The host should choose the most prominent person (or most appropriate) to lead the *zimun*.

Modesty laws

Women need not cover themselves for actions of Tehara including kneading challah or davening. This is because if they sit, they cover themselves. If they are standing then a shift dress will suffice as they need no separation between their genitalia and their heart, the cloth will suffice as a cover. Men require a covering and a belt even when sitting and clothing and a belt while standing.