

Tayammum (Dry Ablution)

Tayammum (dry ablution) is a Shariah-approved substitute for wudu or ghusl when using water is not possible or harmful. It is established by the Qur'an, Sunnah, and consensus of scholars.

Conditions When Tayammum Is Permissible

1. Water Is Not Available

Tayammum is allowed when:

- No water is found after reasonable effort to search for it
- Water is too far away or inaccessible (desert, travel, disaster, etc.)

Qur'an evidence:

“...and you do not find water, then perform tayammum with clean earth...”

(Surah An-Nisa 4:43, Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:6)

2. Using Water Is Harmful

Tayammum is allowed if water use would:

- Worsen an illness
- Delay healing (wounds, fractures, burns)
- Cause severe pain
- Be medically unsafe (confirmed by experience or trustworthy advice)

Hadith evidence:

The Prophet ﷺ approved tayammum for a companion who feared harm from using water due to injury.
(Abu Dawood – Hasan)

3. Extreme Cold With No Safe Heating

If:

- Water is extremely cold
- No way to heat it
- Risk of illness or harm exists

Tayammum is permissible.

Hadith:

‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas (RA) led prayer after making tayammum due to extreme cold, and the Prophet ﷺ approved it.
(Abu Dawood)

4. Water Is Needed for Survival

Tayammum is allowed when available water is needed for:

- Drinking
- Cooking
- Preventing death or serious harm (human or animal)

Preserving life takes precedence.

5. Insufficient Water for Full Purification

If water is only enough for:

- Drinking
- Partial use but not complete wudu or ghusl

Then tayammum is permitted.

6. Fear of Missing Prayer Time

According to some scholars (Hanafi & Maliki):

- If searching for water would cause the prayer time to end

Tayammum is allowed to pray within the time.

Important Notes

- Tayammum cannot be done if water is easily available and safe to use.
- Tayammum is valid only until water becomes available or the excuse ends.
- Tayammum replaces both wudu and ghusl when conditions apply.
- One tayammum is sufficient for one fard prayer according to some scholars; others allow multiple prayers if the excuse remains.

Sunnah Evidence Summary

“The earth has been made a place of prayer and a means of purification for me.”
(Bukhari & Muslim)
