Tum'a and From What To Pour

When washing your hands using the *One-Time Method*, in all cases except when washing for bread, here is what to use:

- Best: Cup that holds at least a *revi'it* of water.
- Next Best: Wash hands from a spigot within 12” of the ground, turning the spigot off and on between hands.
- Third Choice: If the spigot is more than 12” above the ground, simply hold your hands under a regular faucet in the flow of water so that your hands get wet all over. No need to turn the water on and off.

  NOTE This is a *b'di'avad* case.
- Fourth Choice: If there is no water, say whatever blessings you need to say anyway (for example, *asher yatzar*) rather than not saying the blessing at all. You will still have the tum'a on your hands (but you should rub your hands on cloth of clothing first).

NOTE This does NOT apply to washing before eating bread or to any cases where you must wash using the *Three-Times Method*. Removing *tum'a* in these cases requires a cup.

NOTE If you need to wash your hands after using the toilet, there is no need to go 18 minutes to find the water, (unlike the requirement for washing for bread).

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com