

## Wiping over socks

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

A Muslim is required to wash his feet when making wudoo. In some circumstances Islaamic Law waives washing of the feet and allows a Muslim to wipe over the socks. This is called masah in Arabic.

The following four conditions must be met for wiping over socks to be valid:

- You should have worn the socks after washing the foot in a previous wudoo or ghusl (bath).
- The sock must cover the whole foot including the ankle.
- You can only wipe on the sock within the time period allowed to do so.
- You should not have taken off the sock after breaking wudoo.

### Time period for wiping over socks

If you are not travelling, you can wipe over your socks for twenty four hours. If you are travelling, you may do so for three days; that is seventy two hours. At the end of the period, you must take off your socks and wash your feet for a new wudoo.

If you have wudoo at the end of twenty four hours or three days (if travelling), you are not required to renew wudoo until you break it. The 24-hr/72hr time begins when you first wipe over your socks. Acts that break regular wudoo are the same acts that break wudoo done with wiping. For example, sleep would break your wudoo, but a wet dream would require you take a bath (ghusl). Wiping over socks is not compulsory, even when travelling, and the rule applies to both, men and women.

### Method

The method to be used when wiping over socks is to pass wet hands over the top of the socks. The sole of the sock is not wiped. It does not matter which hand you use to wipe each sock, but it is better to wipe both simultaneously.

You may wipe over shoes which reach above the ankle as well with the same conditions mentioned for socks. Like socks, you may not wipe over the shoes if you remove them after having broken your wudoo, rather, in this case, you will have to make masah over the socks underneath them.