

- STEP 1: Initial Preparations
- STEP 2: Prepare Equipment
- STEP 3: Bring in Meitah
- STEP 4: Examine Meitah
- STEP 5: Wash Meitah
- STEP 6: Taharah
- STEP 7: Dry & Dress Meitah
- STEP 8: Place Meitah in Aron
- STEP 9: Finish Up

STEP 1: INITIAL PREPARATIONS

(before meitah is present)

WASH hands ritually (no blessing)

PUT ON gloves & apron

RECITE *t'filah*:
"Source of kindness & compassion ..."

STEP 5: WASH MEITAH

One person reads: "Your head is like Carmel..."

Use buckets of warm water & pots

Follow "Order for Washing" (see left)

Face: Use damp washcloth
Body: Pour water backhand

STEP 7: Dry & Dress Meitah (cont'd)

Dress meitah:

- ✧ Face covering: Strings in front. Tie bow under chin.
- ✧ Bonnet: Tie bow under chin.
- ✧ Pants: Right leg, then left. Use short ties to tie bow under knees. Twist waistband 7x & make *shin* bow.
- ✧ Blouse (no collar): Tie neckband in bow.
- ✧ *Kittel* (collar): Tie neckband in bow.
- ✧ Long tie for waist: Twist 7x & make *shin* bow.

STEP 2: PREPARE EQUIPMENT

- 4 towels, 4 washcloths, 3 sheets
- 2 buckets half full of warm water (a pot in each)
- 3 buckets of cold water

LAY OUT burial garments

PREPARE aron (straw, pillow, sheet)

STEP 6: TAHARAH

WASH hands ritually (no blessing)
PUT ON fresh gloves

One person reads: "Rabbi Akiva said ..."

USE buckets of cold water --

WET table (right, then left), straps & headrest
Fasten straps around meitah - raise foot board - tilt table

PREPARE to pour water on meitah -

One person reads: "I will sprinkle clean water ..."
Remove sheet
Cover nose & mouth with hand

STEP 8: Place Meitah in Aron

In plastic bag at feet: Place any saved items, including tags

Recite together: But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.

Move meitah into aron (one person supports head)
Place pottery shards on eyelids & mouth

Sprinkle earth:

- ✧ Under head (inside bonnet)
- ✧ On skin above heart
- ✧ On pants above genitals
- ✧ Around the body

Wrap sheet: Left, right, then over head

Order: Examine - Wash - Dry

FRONT OF BODY -

- HEAD (hair, face, ears) (right side leader)
- NECK
- SHOULDER - ARM - HAND
- TORSO
- GENITALS (right side team only)
- LEG - FOOT

STEP 3: BRING IN MEITAH

CHECK ID tags

GET Hebrew name

PLACE meitah on table

RECITE TOGETHER: We ask *m'chilah* for any indignity we may do, for it is our intention to work with respect.

REMOVE coverings from meitah

COVER meitah: place washcloth over face & sheet over body

Rules for Pouring:

Pour in a continuous flow
Empty any leftover water at feet

Pour - right team, left team, center

Right Side Team: Start with right shoulder

Left Side Team: Start with left shoulder

Center person: Start with head, then walk left side & pour center

Afterward, say together: *Taharah hi* (3x)

STEP 8: (continued)

Recite together: _____ bat _____
we ask *m'chilah* for anything we have done improperly, &
we ask *m'chilah* for anything your family, friends, & community have done improperly.

Put lid on aron.

Fill out paperwork & leave on top of aron.

Move aron, feet first.

Order: Examine - Wash - Dry

BACK OF BODY -

Do right side first: Incline on left side.
Then do left side.

- SHOULDER - ARM - HAND
- TORSO
- RECTUM (right side team only)
- LEG - FOOT

STEP 4: EXAMINE MEITAH

One person reads *t'filot*: "Master of the Universe ..."

Brush hair - Close eyes & mouth

Straighten limbs & fingers

CHECK / REMOVE:

- Bandages, sores, dirt, bloodstains
- Nail polish & dirt under nails
- ID tags (leave one on ankle)

STOP flow of discharges

STEP 7: Dry & Dress Meitah

Lower table & unfasten straps

Dry meitah: Pat dry gently, in order

Dry table as you go

Put clean sheet over meitah

STEP 9: Finish Up

Discard *taharah* work clothes appropriately.
Wash hands with soap & water as a health precaution.

Go outside and -

- Fill cup with water
- Stand under open sky
- Wash hands ritually (no blessing)
- Do not dry hands
- Do not pour leftover water on plants.