

***Temizu-sha* (Purification Fountain)**

Near the entrance to most Shinto shrines is a fountain where visitors purify themselves physically and spiritually before entering the shrine grounds. In ancient times, worshippers would bathe in a river or the ocean, but today a rinse of the hands and mouth will suffice.

At Sumiyoshi Taisha, the water that fills the fountain streams out from the mouth of a stone rabbit. Rabbits are closely associated with the shrine as it is said to have been founded on the day, month, and year of the rabbit according to the traditional Chinese calendar.

How to Use the Fountain

First pick up the ladle with your right hand. Scoop some water from the basin and use some of it to rinse your left hand. Switch hands and rinse your right hand. Next, pour a bit of the water from the ladle into your cupped left hand and rinse your mouth. Spit out the water carefully into the overflow area outside the basin. Finally, pour any remaining water into the drain area, tipping the ladle vertically to rinse it by letting the water flow down the handle.