

Global Halal Guide Research Methodology

Our Research Methodology

Every ingredient and ruling on this website undergoes a rigorous verification process.

Here's how I ensure accuracy and authenticity:

1. Source Identification

- Investigate the chemical composition and manufacturing process
- Identify potential animal, plant, or synthetic sources
- Consult scientific literature and manufacturer data
- Contact companies directly when information is unclear

2. Islamic Jurisprudence Review

- Reference classical fiqh texts on food permissibility
- Examine contemporary fatwas from recognized scholars
- Consider rulings from major Islamic councils and academies
- Analyze differences across madhabs (schools of thought)

3. Cross-Verification

- Compare findings with trusted halal certification bodies
- Review multiple scholarly opinions
- Verify with industry standards and regulatory databases
- Update regularly as formulations change

4. Clear Documentation

- Cite all Islamic sources (Quran, Hadith, classical texts)
- Provide references to fatwas and scholarly councils
- Link to scientific/regulatory sources
- Include manufacturer statements when available

5. Continuous Updates

- Monitor changes in food industry practices
- Update articles when new information emerges
- Respond to reader inquiries with research
- Maintain transparency about uncertainty

What I Don't Do:

- Rely on unverified internet sources
- Make rulings without scholarly basis

- Copy content without verification
- Claim certainty where scholars differ
- Ignore nuances in fiqh positions

SCHOLARLY APPROACH

Islamic Scholars & Sources Consulted

My work stands on the shoulders of classical and contemporary Islamic scholarship. I do not invent rulings but rather apply established principles to modern contexts.

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Primary Islamic Sources

- The Noble Quran – All rulings ultimately derive from Allah's revelation
- Authentic Hadith Collections – Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Sunan collections
- Classical Fiqh Works – Texts from all four madhabs spanning centuries of scholarship

Contemporary Scholarly Bodies Referenced

- Islamic Fiqh Academy (OIC)
- European Council for Fatwa and Research
- Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA)
- Dar al-Ifta al-Misriyyah
- Permanent Committee for Islamic Research and Fatwas (Saudi Arabia)
- Various trusted contemporary muftis and scholars

Halal Certification Organizations Consulted

- IFANCA (Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America)
- HFA (Halal Food Authority)
- ISWA (Islamic Society of Washington Area)
- Halal Monitoring Committee (HMC)
- Regional certification bodies in Europe and North America

Food Science & Regulatory Sources

- FDA (Food and Drug Administration)
- EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)
- Codex Alimentarius
- Scientific journals and food technology publications

Important Note: When scholars differ on an ingredient's permissibility, I present multiple positions with their evidence, allowing you to follow the opinion that aligns with your madhab or conscience.

MADHAB TRANSPARENCY

Understanding Different Schools of Thought

Islamic jurisprudence encompasses legitimate scholarly differences, especially regarding food permissibility. I believe in transparency about these differences rather than presenting only one

view.

The Four Sunni Madhabs

Hanafi | Maliki | Shafi'i | Hanbali

All four schools are based on the Quran and Sunnah, but may differ in:

- Interpretation of texts
- Principles of jurisprudence (usul al-fiqh)
- What constitutes sufficient evidence
- Regional scholarly traditions

Common Areas of Difference in Food

Seafood: Hanafis permit only fish with scales; other madhabs permit all seafood

Mechanical Slaughter: Varying opinions on acceptability and conditions

Alcohol Traces: Differences on permissible amounts in processed foods

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Carion Derivatives: Varying views on transformed (istihalah) substances

Animal Rennet: Different positions on rennet from non-zabiha animals

My Approach

When presenting rulings on this website:

- I clearly indicate when madhabs differ
- I provide the reasoning behind each position
- I cite which scholars/madhabs hold which view
- I avoid claiming one position is definitively correct when legitimate difference exists
- I encourage consulting your local imam or scholar for personal guidance

My Default Position: When writing generally, I tend to present the more cautious view first, but always mention alternative positions. This allows those who follow different madhabs or have genuine need for alternative rulings to make informed decisions.

CREDENTIALS & LIMITATIONS

My Credentials & Limitations

What Qualifies Me

- Formal training in Islamic jurisprudence (Al-Ifta Fil Fikhil Islami)
- Specialized studies in Tafsir and Hadith
- Years of teaching Islamic sciences
- Ability to access original Arabic sources
- Training in methodology of deriving rulings

What I Am Not

- I am not a food scientist or chemist
- I am not a certified halal auditor
- I am not infallible—I may make mistakes

How I Bridge These Gaps

- I consult food science experts and literature
- I reference established certification bodies
- I verify technical information through multiple sources

- I remain open to corrections and updates
- I clearly distinguish between established rulings and my personal research

If you find an error or have additional information, please contact me. This is a collaborative effort to serve the Muslim community.

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Important Disclaimer

Personal Responsibility

The information on this website is provided for educational purposes and general guidance. While I strive for accuracy and base all content on authentic Islamic sources and verified data:

You are ultimately responsible for your own dietary choices.

This Website Is Not:

- A substitute for consulting qualified local scholars
- A halal certification service
- A fatwa-issuing authority for individual cases
- Infallible or free from potential errors
- Comprehensive of every possible ingredient or situation

You Should:

- Verify information for yourself when possible
- Consult your local imam or trusted scholar for personal questions
- Contact manufacturers directly about specific products
- Follow the madhab you adhere to when positions differ
- Use this website as one resource among many
- Exercise your own judgment and taqwa (God-consciousness)

Liability

I make every effort to provide accurate information, but ingredient formulations change, manufacturing processes vary, and scholarly opinions may differ. I cannot be held liable for decisions made based on this website's content.

When in doubt, it is always safer to avoid doubtful items until you can verify their permissibility.

Corrections & Updates

If you believe any information on this site is inaccurate or outdated:

- Please contact me with your concerns
- Provide sources or evidence
- I commit to reviewing and updating content accordingly

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