

Dhanteras Pooja Vidhi

STEP-BY-STEP HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

Compiled by Vimal Sharma for the Fijian Community and Devotees Worldwide

About this Vidhi: This is a simple, traditional step-by-step worship procedure that the Fijian community has lovingly practiced at home for decades. You can easily perform this sacred ritual yourself to invoke the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Ganesha, Lord Kuber, and Lord Dhanvantari.

1. Preparation of the Altar & Setup

1 Altar Arrangement & Kalash Sthapana

Clean your designated pooja place thoroughly. Spread a red cloth and place murtis of Shree Ganesh, Ma Laxmi, and Ma Saraswati. Setup a Kalash (Lota) filled with water, topped with mango or other auspicious leaves. Draw a Swastika with Kumkum or Sindoor on a coconut and place it on top of the Kalash. Place 9 Supari (betel nuts) on a paan leaf near the Kalash representing the Navgraha (you can also use 9 grapes or a Navgraha photo/yantra), placing a 10-cent coin on top. Arrange 7 to 9 types of grains (such as urad, moong, rice, chana) on a small saucer. Light your *Akhand Diya* (which should remain lit until Diwali night). In a new vessel, pot, or plate purchased for the occasion, place rice and position the Laxmi-Vishnu or Laxmi murti, along with any Kuber Yantra, Shree Yantra, or left- and right-handed Shankh (conch shells) if available. If possible, prepare an additional 4-wick Diya for Yamraj.

2 Invocation & Mantras

Recite traditional mantras if known; otherwise, express your devotion in your own simple language (e.g., "*Bhagwaan main aap ko chandan laga raha hu, main prashaad chada raha hu*").

3 Achamana & Purification

Sprinkle water all around the pooja area and on yourself. Sip water three times. Take a few drops of water in your left hand and gently touch your lips, nose, eyes, ears, shoulders, knees, and chest with the ring finger of your right hand.

4 Tilak & Sankalp

Apply Chandan (sandalwood paste) to your forehead. Light the main Diya, apply Chandan/Sindoor paste to it, and offer a flower nearby. Taking rice and flowers in your hands, state your Sankalp:

"He samast devi Devta. Diwali ke awsar par Aaj main tryodashi ke din apne pariwaar waalo ke saath, Dhanteras ki pooja kar raha/rahi hu."

Place the rice and flowers near the Diya.

2. Deity Worship Procedures

5 Lord Ganesha & Shiva-Parvati Worship

Sprinkle water on Shree Ganesha. Offer a yellow thread across his shoulder (from left to right), apply Chandan, Sindoor, and Haldi, and offer a garland. Show Dhoop (agarbatti) and the Diya. Offer fresh fruits, Prasad, paan, supari, cloves, cardamom, Doob grass, and a coin. Hold flowers, recite *"Om Shree Ganeshaaye Namah"*, and place them at Lord Ganesha's feet. Repeat similarly if you have placed Shiv-Parvati on the altar.

6 Kalash & Devta Invocation

Inside the Kalash, place flowers, a coin, supari, paan, cloves, cardamom, Doob, Kush grass, and Chandan. Place the coconut on top of the leaves, wrapped in a red cloth, and tie a yellow dora with a piece of whole turmeric around the neck of the Kalash. Apply Tilak to the coconut and Kalash while chanting:

"Om Shree Kalash Devtaaye namah. Om Varunaaye namah. Om Brahmane namah, Om Vishnuwe namah, Om Shivaaye namah. Om Dhanvantraye namah. Om Kuberaaye namah. Om Navgrah devtaaye namah, Om Asht Laxmaye namah."

7 Navgraha Sthapan

If you do not have a photo or yantra, apply Chandan and Sindoor Tilak to a supari, sprinkle rice, and chant *"Om Navgrah devtaaye namah."* Offer 2 red flowers, 2 white, 3 dark, 1 yellow, and 1 greenish flower (substitute with Tulsi leaves or Doob grass if unavailable).

8 Grain & Diya Saucer Worship

Touch the grains on the saucer under your Diya and recite:

"Om Deepaaye Namah, Om Dhanvantre Namah. Om Kuberaaye Namah, Om Lakshmaye Namah, Om Saraswate Namah, Om Dugaaye Namah."

Place flowers and a coin in the saucer.

9 Ma Lakshmi & Shree Vishnu Abhishek

In a clean plate, place Ma Lakshmi and Shree Vishnu murtis along with any Shankh and Yantras. Bathe them with water, milk, yogurt, honey, sugar, and ghee (Panchamrit). Clean and wash them again with water, collecting the runoff in a glass to serve as *Charnamrit*. Place the murtis and Yantras back on the altar, adorn Ma Lakshmi with Shinghaar (clothes and jewelry), and apply Chandan/Sindoor Tilak and garlands to all murtis and Yantras. Offer Dhoop, Diya, fruits, Prasad, paan, supari, cloves, cardamom, coins, and a lotus flower (if available).

10 Shankh (Conch Shell) Pooja

Place the Shankh on the right side of the Kalash (left side of the worshiper) on a red cloth. Original Dakshinavarti (Valampuri) Shankh is especially sacred to Goddess Lakshmi. Position the mouth upward, tail facing East, head toward the devotee, and narrow tail toward the deities. Fill the Shankh with water, wave it around the altar 3 times, and pour the water into a vessel. Wipe the Shankh and place it in the plate. You may draw a Swastika on it and add Doob, whole turmeric, paan, supari, yellow dora, coins, lotus seeds, and flowers. Apply Tilak and chant:

"Om Shankh Devtaaye Namah."

Offer prayers to Lord Ganesh, Dhanvantri, Kuber, Yam, Ma Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kali, Shree Ram, Mata Annapurna, and Raja Bali for peace and prosperity.

3. Conclusion & Deep Daan

11 Hawan, Aarti & Yam Diya

If desired, perform a simple Hawan by placing wood in the Hawan Kund, lighting camphor, and offering ghee and Hawan Samagri while chanting names of deities with *Swaaha* (e.g., *"Om Ganeshaaye Namah Swaaha, Om Shivaaye Namah Swaaha, Om Kuberaaye Namah Swaaha"*). Conclude with Aarti. Place Diyas around the house, at front and back doors, and at your outdoor pooja place. Finally, take the Yam Diya in your hands, walk through all rooms of the house, and place it outside near the front entrance facing South in a clean spot while praying to Lord Yamraaj.

May this Dhanteras bring abundant health, wealth, prosperity, and light to your home and family.