

TEVILLAS KEILIM



Utensils used in the preparation or consumption of food which were once owned by a non-Jew and are now owned by a Jew, must undergo *tevillas keilim* (ritual immersion in a *mikvah*) before they can be used. The following is an outline of some of the basic halachos of *tevillas keilim*:

Tevillah is only required for items made of metal or glass, and this includes aluminum, cast iron, chrome, pewter, Pyrex, stainless steel, tin, and many other materials. *Tevillah* is not required for utensils made of cardboard, ceramic, cork, leather, paper, plastic, rubber, stone, Styrofoam, or wood. China should have *tevillah* without a *bracha*. Disposable aluminum pans do not require *tevillah*, regardless of how many times they are used.

Tevillah is only required for utensils which have food contact. Therefore, a stovetop grate does not require *tevillah*, since it never touches food, and neither does a water-pan used with a chafing dish, but *tevillah* is required for a barbecue spit or the food pan used with a chafing dish. The cover of a chafing dish must also undergo *tevillah*; although it seemingly does not have contact with the “actual” food, it is considered to have food contact because of the considerable amount of steam that rises from the food to the cover.

A glass cake tray requires *tevillah*, even if the cake is always placed in cupcake holders or on a doily (i.e., never touches the actual tray), because the doily etc. is considered *tafel/trivial* to the food. A can opener does not have (intentional) food contact, and, therefore, it does not require *tevillah*. The tray in a toaster oven or microwave, requires *tevillah* because people put food right onto it, but the chamber of those appliances does not require *tevillah* since they do not have (intentional) food contact. The following are some other examples of items which have no food contact and therefore do not require *tevillah*: corkscrew, dishwashing basin, knife sharpener, and napkin ring.

Tevillah is primarily required for utensils that have contact with food that is either “ready to eat” (e.g., flatware, plates), or used to bring the food to the point that it is ready to eat (e.g., pots, pans). If a utensil is intended for use with raw food, but the same item could also be used for meal-ready food, then *tevillah* should be performed without a *bracha*. For example, a pair of kitchen scissors bought to cut raw meat will not be used with meal-ready food, but since there are some who use those scissors for cutting vegetables, *tevillah* should be performed without a *bracha*. There is a difference of opinion as to whether *tevillah* is at all required if the utensil can only be used on raw foods (e.g., a rolling pin).

Peelers, graters, and food processors which will be used with meal-ready food (e.g., carrots) require *tevillah* with a *bracha*. If they will only be used for foods that require further cooking (e.g., potatoes), then *tevillah* should be performed, but no *bracha* should be recited. Colanders, skewers, and spatulas are used with food that is fully cooked, and, therefore, they require *tevillah* with a *bracha* (assuming they are metal or glass).

Containers used for storage of food, and from which no one ever eats directly, should have *tevillah* without a *bracha*. Rav Schwartz, zt”l has ruled that any electrical appliance that might get ruined because of *tevillah*, is excused from the requirement of *tevillas keilim* and may be used without *tevillah*.

The item undergoing *tevillah* must be free of *chatzizos* – items that block the water from having direct contact with them. This means that not only must all stickers and labels be removed before *tevillah*, but the person performing the *tevillah* should be sure not to grip the item too tightly when it is in the *mikvah* (for if he does, his hand will be a *chatzizah*).

The *bracha* of *על טבילת כלים* אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על טבילת כלים is recited before *tevillah* begins. If more than one person will be

performing *tevillah*, one person can recite the *bracha* for all the participants.

The following is a list of items which do or do not require *tevillah*, based on the assumption that the utensil is both used and manufactured in the standard manner. Those which are listed as requiring *tevillah* assume that they are made from metal or glass which requires *tevillah*, as opposed to plastic, paper, rubber, wood, or other materials which are excused.

The status of some entries of marked with a “1” or a “2” which refers to the following:

- 1 If this person will sometimes use the utensil with meal-ready food (e.g., many fruits and vegetables), *tevillah* is performed with a *bracha*. If it will only be used with food that requires further cooking, *tevillah* should be performed but no *bracha* should be recited.
- 2 If the utensil ever has food contact, *tevillah* is required with a *bracha*; if the utensil never has food contact, no *tevillah* is required.

ITEM	TEVILLAH?	BRACHA?
Apple corer	✓	✓
Baking sheet	✓	✓
Barbecue grill (cover)	✗	✗
Barbecue grill (food-handling tools)	✓	✓
Barbecue grill (grate)	✓	✓
Basin for dishwashing	✗	✗
Blech	2	2
Bottle warmer	✗	✗
Bread box	✓	✗
Butcher's knife	✓	✗
Cake tray	2	2
Cake tray cover	✗	✗
Can opener	✗	✗
Candy dish	2	2
Canister cover	✗	✗
Chafing dish (cover)	✓	✓
Chafing dish (food pan)	✓	✓
Chafing dish (water pan)	✗	✗
Coffee mill	✗	✗
Coffee mug	✗	✗
Colander (metal)	✓	✓
Colander (plastic)	✗	✗
Cookie cutter	✓	✗
Cookie sheet	✓	✓

ITEM	TEVILLAH?	BRACHA?
Corelle (cup)	✗	✗
Corelle (plate, bowl)	✓	✓
Cork	✗	✗
Corkscrew	✗	✗
Corn holders	✓	✓
Corn popper	✓	✓
Crock pot (“pot” made of ceramic)	✗	✗
Crock pot (“pot” made of metal)	✓	✓
Crock pot (base)	✗	✗
Crock pot (cover of metal or glass)	✓	✓
Cup (china)	✓	✗
Cup (metal, glass)	✓	✓
Cup (plastic, ceramic)	✗	✗
Double boiler (food pot)	✓	✓
Double boiler (water pot)	2	2
Dough hook	✗	✗
Egg slicer	✓	✓
Electric knife	✓	✓
Electrical appliances	✗	✗
Flour sifter	✗	✗
Food processor	✓	1
Food scale	✗	✗
French fry cutter	✓	✗
Fruit juicer	✓	✓
Grater	✓	1
Grill (parts which touch food)	✓	✓
Grinder	✓	1
Hot plate	2	2
Ice cream scooper	✓	✓
Immersion heater	✗	✗
Juicer (for fruit)	✓	✓
Kiddush cup (ceramic)	✗	✗
Kiddush cup (metal, glass)	✓	✓
Knife sharpener	✗	✗
Knife, electric	✓	✓
Knife, for butchering	✓	✗
Knife, for eating with	✓	✓
Measuring cup (metal or glass)	✓	1
Measuring cup (plastic)	✗	✗
Meat hammer	✗	✗

ITEM	TEVILLAH?	BRACHA?
Meat slicer	✓	✓
Meat tenderizer	✗	✗
Meat thermometer	✗	✗
Melon baller	✓	✓
Microwave (chamber)	✗	✗
Microwave (plate)	2	2
Mug	✗	✗
Napkin ring	✗	✗
Onion chopper	✓	1
Oven rack	✗	✗
Pasta extruder	✗	✗
Peel (pancake flipper)	✓	✓
Peeler (standard)	✓	✓
Peeler (used only for potatoes)	✓	✗
Pet food dish	✗	✗
Piping bag	✓	✓
Pizza cutter	✓	✓
Pot (metal, glass, porcelain enamel)	✓	✓
Pot COVER (metal, glass, porcelain enamel)	✓	✓
Poultry shears	✓	1

ITEM	TEVILLAH?	BRACHA?
Rolling pin	✗	✗
Sandwich-maker	✗	✗
Saucer	2	2
Scissors (for food)	✓	1
Serving tray	2	2
Shredder	✓	1
Skewer (metal)	✓	✓
Skewer (wood or bamboo)	✗	✗
Spit	✓	✓
Spoon rest	✗	✗
Storage container	✓	✗
Stovetop grate	✗	✗
Strainer (metal)	✓	✓
Strainer (plastic)	✗	✗
Sugar canister	✓	✗
Toaster	✗	✗
Toaster oven (chamber)	✗	✗
Toaster oven (rack, tray)	✓	✓
Urn (electric)	✗	✗
Whisk	✗	✗

cRc GUIDELINES FOR SHAIMOS

As we clean and prepare our homes for Pesach, it is not uncommon to come across many items, other than *chametz*, that we would like to discard. Questions often arise regarding papers or publications that bear Hebrew letters and may be considered *shaimos*, religious items or texts, which require special disposal. Therefore, we present the following guidelines established by our *Rosh Beth Din*, HaRav Gedalia Dov Schwartz ל"צא.

GUIDELINES

In regard to disposal of items containing Hebrew script, etc. and *shaimos*, the following guidelines are recommended:

- Any parts of *Kisvei Kodesh* such as *Tanach*, *Gemara*, and *siddurim*, etc. must have *geniza*, burial of religious items. This includes *tefillin*, *mezuzos*, rabbinic *sefarim*, and *mezuzah* covers.

- It would be advisable that worksheets, etc. not be reproduced or written in *ksav ashuri* (printed) Hebrew letters and that entire *p'sukim* not be reproduced. Assuming these guidelines have been followed, these worksheets may then be disposed or recycled.
- Jewish newspapers may be put into double plastic bags and then disposed of. This includes such publications as the Jewish Press, the Yated, etc.
- In *D'var Torah* publications such as *Likutei P'shatim* and shul newsletters, only the *Divrei Torah* sections must have *geniza*. The social sections may be recycled. ▲

Important note: As the cRc will not be collecting *shaimos*, please do not bring your *shaimos* to the cRc office during the Pesach season.