



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

Do's and Don'ts of Tevilas Keilim

The *posuk*¹ tells us after the war with *Midyan*, utensils that were used over fire must be brought over fire, and then purified with a sprinkling of water. *Keilim* which did not come in contact with fire only need to be dipped in water. The reason for doing *tevilas keilim* on utensils (which utensils need to be *toveled* is not the subject of our discussion) is to separate ourselves from the impurity of the *goyim* and bring *kedusha* to the utensil.² The *tevila* is similar to what a *goy* does when he wants to become Jewish.³ There is a discussion in the *poskim* whether *tevilas keilim* is required *m'd'oraisa* or *m'd'rabanan*.⁴ The consensus of most *poskim* is that it is *d'oraisa*.⁵ (Except for glass)

Using a Utensil without Immersing

Many people think that one may use a utensil one time before *toveling* it in a *mikvah*. However, this is a mistake which has no basis in *halacha*, and one is required to *tovel* his utensils before using them.⁶ One who did use a utensil which was not *toveled* is still obligated to *tovel* it before using it again.⁷

Although there is no *issur* to have a non-*toveled* utensil in one's house,⁸ one should avoid this when possible.⁹

¹ Bamidbar 31:23, Rashi "v'chol," refer to Ramban on 31:23, see Mesechtas Avoda Zara 75b, Rambam Machalus Asuros 17:3 and 5, Refer to Da'as Zekanim M'balei Hatofas why the Yiddin were only commanded to do this mitzvah after the war with Midyan. See Tevilas Keilim pages 44-47 in depth.

² Prisha Y.D. 120:2, Taz 120:1, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:1, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:1, Tevilas Keilim page 44, see Rosh Avoda Zara 5:36.

³ Ritvah Avoda Zara "Haveh" page 103 (old).

⁴ Rambam Hilchos Machalus Asuros 17:5, see Tevilas Keilim pages 32-33.

⁵ Levush 120:12, 14, G'ra 36, Chuchmas Adom 73:1, Binas Adom 66, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:2 Aruch Ha'shulchan 120:4, Minchas Chinuch mitzvah 32, Tevilas Keilim pages 34-36, Chelkes Binyomin 120:1.

⁶ Refer to Rama Y.D. 120:8, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:1, Aruch Ha'shulchan 17, Orchos Habayis 9:6, Minchas Shlomo 2:66:12, Pischei Halacha (Kashrus) page 120:28, Kinyan Torah 1:51, Vayivorech Dovid 1:97, see Shach 17, Teshuvos V'hanhugos 1:356, Shalmei Moed page 55:97. Not to use a utensil before *toveling* is an *issur d'rabanan* (Minchas Shlomo 2:66:14). Some say one may place food on a utensil that was not *toveled* but one may not eat from that utensil (Divrei Shalom 6:page 294:203, see Halichos Chaim 2:page 116:234).

⁷ Chuchmas Adom 73:20, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:19, Darchei Teshuva 120:107, see Aruch Ha'shulchan 17.

⁸ Biur Halacha O.C. 323: "mutar," see Pri Megadim M.Z. O.C. 323:5.

⁹ Hechsheiros 4:5:footnote 12, Orchos Habayis 9:15:footnote 46.



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

A Hotel using Utensils without *Toveling* Them

Many times Jewish hotels use utensils without immersing them first. One who attends such a hotel is permitted to eat from the utensils.¹⁰ Others say one should find out if the utensils were *toveled* before eating from them.¹¹

Toveling Utensils in a Men's *Mikvah*

Sometimes, one may wish to bring utensils with him when attending a men's *mikvah*. However, the *poskim* say that a *mikvah* for *toveling* utensils has to be *kosher* for women to *tovel* in and many times men's *mikvahos* are only *kosher* for men to *tovel* in but are not *kosher* for women. Therefore, one should only *tovel* his utensils in a *mikvah* which has been examined by a qualified *Rav* that it is *kosher* for *toveling keilim*.¹²

The *poskim* suggest that one who is going to *tovel* a utensil in a men's *mikvah* should recite the *beracha* outside the *mikvah*, enter the *mikvah*, and then immediately dip the utensil to avoid any *hefsek*.¹³ The reason for reciting the *beracha* outside is because one may not recite a *beracha* in front of improperly clad people.¹⁴ Whether or not one may *tovel* utensils in a lake or a river should be discussed with a *Rav*.¹⁵

Removing Stickers etc before the *Tevilah*

When being *tovel* a utensil, the water must touch the entire utensil, both inside and out.¹⁶ Before *toveling* a utensil one should remove all stickers, dirt, rust, etc, from the *keli* because leaving them on is a *chatzitzah* which makes the *tevila* invalid.¹⁷ One is not

¹⁰ Refer to Darchei Teshuva 120:70,88, Yechaveh Da'as 4:44, Minchas Shlomo 2:66:14, Shalmei Moed pages 548-549:97, Minchas Yitzchok 1:44, Hechsheiros 4:4, Bais Avi 1:116, Chai Ha'Levi 4:60:7. The same heter applies to a nursing home for a patient to eat from their utensils (Nishmas Avraham 2:120:1:page 31).

¹¹ Igros Moshe Y.D. 3:22, Rivevos Ephraim 4:380:12, see 2:172:14. Refer to Shulchan Aruch Hamikutzar 138:15:footnote 44.

¹² Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita. Refer to Kovetz Halachos Y.D. 1:2003 (Camp Agudah), Chai Ha'Levi 4:58:4. One should not *tovel* a *keli* if a filter is on (Chai Ha'Levi ibid 5).

¹³ Refer to Yabea Omer Y.D. 2:14, Vayivorech Dovid 1:97 in depth, Avnei Yushfei 1:12, Shevet Ha'kehusi 2:145, Bais Boruch 1:pages 435-436, Lev Avraham 17, see Pri Megadim M.Z. 84:2, Mishnah Berurah 84:4, Vayivtzar Yosef 2:5:3, Tevilas Keilim 9:13:footnote 15. Refer to Hechsheiros 4:47, Tevilas Keilim 9:13:footnote 16.

¹⁴ Refer to Chelkes Binyomin 120:29:footnote 91. If a utensil which does not require a *beracha* is being *toveled* some are lenient in *toveling* it in a men's *mikvah* (Vayivorech Dovid 1:97).

¹⁵ Refer to Zichron Betzalel 2:57:27-28.

¹⁶ Chuchmas Adom 7:15-16, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:3, Darchei Teshuva 26, Chai Ha'Levi 4:59:6.

¹⁷ Bais Yosef, Shulchan Aruch 120:3, Shulchan Aruch 202:2, Darchei Moshe 120:2, Levush 120:13, Pri Megadim M.Z. O.C. 451:6, Chuchmas Adom 73:14, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:18, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:10, Darchei Tehsuva 100, Orchos Rabbeinu 3:page 86:59, Orchos Habayis 9:11, Hechsheiros 4:33, Shalmei



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

required to remove a *chatzitzah* which he is not *makpid* on.¹⁸ However, this is only if the sticker, etc. does not cover the whole utensil. If the *chatzitzah* covers most of the utensil it is still considered a *chatzitzah* even if one is not *makpid* on it.¹⁹ A *chatzitzah* which one is *makpid* on sometimes but was not *makpid* on at the time of the *tevila* is still considered a *chatzitzah*.²⁰

A sticker which is not usually removed from the utensil is not a *chatzitzah*.²¹ For example, some say that a sticker with the word "crystal" does not have to be removed because it is *chashuv* to keep it on the utensil.²² If one scratched and tried to take off the *chatzitzah* and some of it still stayed on, one may nonetheless *tovel* the utensil.²³ Glue can normally be removed with acetone, nail polish remover, or WD 40. One who *toveled* a utensil with a *chatzitzah* on which he is *makpid* has to repeat the *tevila*.²⁴ One who only realized that there was a *chatzitzah* after taking his mind off the *tevilah* has to recite another *beracha* before *toveling* the *keli* a second time.²⁵

The Beracha

The *beracha* recited is *boruch ata... al tevilas keilim* if one is immersing many *keilim*, or *al tevilas keli* if one is only immersing one *keli*.²⁶ Some say that even one who is immersing one *keli* still says *al tevilas keilim*,²⁷ although the *minhag* is not in accordance with this opinion.²⁸ One who did recite the *beracha* of *al tevilas keli* when *toveling* many *keilim* was

Moed page 553, Chelkes Binyomin 120:113. Refer to Tevilas Keilim 5:footnote 1 in depth why a sticker etc has to be removed before one is *tovel* a utensil.

¹⁸ Shulchan Aruch *ibid*. Refer to Chai Ha'Levi 1:57.

¹⁹ Shulchan Aruch *ibid*, Aruch Ha'shulchan 15, 202:3, Har Tzvi 159-160, Zichron Betzalel 2:57:90-91, Chelkes Binyomin 120:114, see Tevilas Keilim page 122:footnote 2.

²⁰ Tevilas Keilim 5:4.

²¹ Tevilas Keilim 5:footnote 2*.

²² Tevilas Keilim 5:footnote 2*, Pischei Halacha (Kashrus) 1:page 62, Chelkes Binyomin 120:113. Refer to Chai Ha'Levi 1:57 who is stringent.

²³ Aruch Ha'shulchan *ibid*, Tevilas Keilim 5:footnote 2, Chelkes Binyomin 120:118.

²⁴ Refer to Shulchan Aruch 120:13.

²⁵ Tevilas Keilim 5:3.

²⁶ Tur 120, Bais Yosef, Shulchan Aruch 120:3, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:1. Refer to Oz Nedberu 3:61, Sharaga Hameir 5:81:1, Tevilas Keilim page 170 and Doleh U'mashka page 261 why there is a *loshin rabbim* when *toveling* many *keilim* something that it not found by other *mitzvahs* for example, *mezuzah*. Some recite a *yihiy noam* before the *beracha* (Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:4). Some do not recite a *beracha* on any utensil (Refer to Vayivorech Dovid 1:97).

²⁷ Aruch Ha'shulchan 120:22, Kochvei Yitzchok 1:10:6, Tevilas Keilim page 170, Chelkes Binyomin 120:31, Zichron Betzalel 2:57:120-121.

²⁸ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, see Shalmei Moed page 553, Shulchan Aruch Hamikutzar 138:footnote 26.



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

yotzei b'dieved.²⁹ If one recited the *beracha* of *borcuch ata*... and ended off *al keli mateches* (metal) he was *yotzei b'dieved*.³⁰ A pot with a cover is considered one utensil, and the *beracha* is *al tevilas keli*.³¹

One should recite the *beracha* immediately prior to dipping the utensil into the water.³² If one did not recite the *beracha* before dipping the utensil in the water it is unclear if he should recite the *beracha* afterwards.³³ There is a discussion in the *poskim* if one who is doubtful if he recited a *beracha* should still recite it.³⁴ One who is being *tovel* more than one utensil should be careful not to talk between the first utensil and the second.³⁵ One who is *toveling keilim* and new *keilim* are brought to be *toveled* which he did not intend to *tovel* at the time he recited the *beracha*, would need to recite a new *beracha* before *toveling* these utensils.³⁶ One may recite the *beracha* while sitting or standing.³⁷

How to *Tovel*

The entire utensil must be completely under water at one time.³⁸ One should not hold onto the utensil too tightly because doing so may constitute a *chatzitzah*, since his grasp is preventing the water from touching the part of the utensil that is being held.³⁹ One must make sure that no air gets trapped in the utensil during *tevila*.⁴⁰ The easiest way to *tovel* glasses etc. is to stand them right side up once they are under the water.⁴¹ One can

²⁹ Be'er Heitiv 120:4, Pri Chadash 11, Tevilas Keilim 9:3, see Darchei Teshuva 120:37.

³⁰ Pri Chadash 3, Matei Yehonoson 3, refer to Bais Yosef, Bach, Darchei Moshe 3, Shach 8, Taz 5.

³¹ Shalmei Moed page 553, Shulchan Aruch Hamikutzar 138:footnote 25.

³² Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 19:4, Taz 4, see Shulchan Aruch O.C. 206:11, Mishnah Berurah 11, Shulchan Aruch 167:4, Mishnah Berurah 167:30.

³³ Horav Akiva Eiger 3, Chelkes Binyomin 120:7, see Pri Megadim Eishel Avraham O.C. 323:13, Darchei Teshuva 34, Zichron Betzalel 2:57:123-125.

³⁴ Refer to Tevilas Keilim 9:4, Bais Avi 1:116.

³⁵ Tevilas Keilim 9:17, Vayitzvar Yosef 2:5:4:footnote 9.

³⁶ Refer to Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 19:6.

³⁷ Hechsheiros 4:44, Yisroel B'mamadam 2:47:26.

³⁸ Chuchmas Adom 7:15-16, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:3, Darchei Teshuva 26, Zichron Betzalel 2:57:77, Chai Ha'Levi 4:59:1. Refer to Tevilas Keilim pages 191-192 in regard to when the utensil becomes pure when the utensil is placed in the water or when it is removed.

³⁹ Shulchan Aruch 120:2, Darchei Moshe 2, Shach 6, Pischei Teshuva 5, G'ra 6, Be'er Heitiv 3, Ben Ish Chai Matos 2:9, Aruch Ha'shulchan 120:20-21, Darchei Teshuva 30, see Tevilas Keilim 10:footnote 2 in depth.

⁴⁰ Refer to Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 202:8, Shach 7, Taz 6, Chuchmas Adom 73:17, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:11, Darchei Teshuva 20.

⁴¹ Poskim.



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

בס"ד

place many utensils in a basket and place the basket in the water.⁴² However, one must be careful that the utensils are not on top of each other, because then the water will not touch each utensil properly.⁴³ One can tie a rope to a utensil and dip the utensil in the water.⁴⁴ When doing the *tevilah* by hand one should place the utensil in his right hand.⁴⁵ One who is afraid he will drop the utensil if it is not held tightly during the *tevilla* should place some water on his hand and then hold the utensil.⁴⁶ One is allowed to *tovel* utensils both by day and by night.⁴⁷ Some say one should have in mind when dipping the utensil that it should become pure.⁴⁸

How Many Times

One does not have to *tovel* a utensil more than once.⁴⁹ Some have the custom to *tovel* the utensil three times.⁵⁰

Who May Tovel

All people are believed to say that they were *tovel* a utensil in a *mikvah* in the proper way. However, a *goy* and young child (under *bar-mitzvah*) are only believed if a adult was standing over them making sure that the *tevilla* was done properly.⁵¹ Nonetheless, *I'chatchilah* a *goy* should not be *tovel keilim*.⁵² The custom is that a woman is believed on

⁴² Shach Y.D. 202:6, Mishnah Berurah 452:21, Teshuvos V'hanhugos 3:257 in depth, Chelkes Binyomin 120:22, Lehoros Nossos 4:67, Tevilas Keilim 10:3. If one wants to *tovel* a heavy utensil he should not put it in a basket.

⁴³ Darchei Teshuva 120:20, 31, Mishnah Berurah 452:22, Aruch Ha'shulchan Y.D. 120:7, see Shulchan Aruch O.C. 452:3.

⁴⁴ Rama Y.D. 201:9, Shach 202:5, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:10, Chelkes Binyomin 120:22.

⁴⁵ Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:10, see Shulchan Aruch O.C. 206:4, Mishnah Berurah 17-18, Vayivtzar Yosef 2:5:3. Refer to Gemorah Berochos 43b, Rashi "b'shemen," Rosh 6:39, Teferes Yisroel 20, Rif, Mordechai 149, Rambam Hilchos Berochos 7:14, Shulchan Aruch 206:4, Levush 4, Ateres Zekanim, Shulchan Aruch Harav 8, T'zalach Mesechtas Berochos pages 183-184, Mishnah Berurah 17-18, Aruch Ha'shulchan 7, Ben Ish Chai Boluk 1:14.

⁴⁶ Shulchan Aruch 120: 2, Rama, Shach 7, Aruch Ha'shulchan 20, see Taz 4. Others say one should pass the utensil from hand to hand while keeping one's hands under water.

⁴⁷ Hechsheiros 4:51.

⁴⁸ Refer to Shach 28, Taz 15-17, Aruch Ha'shulchan 14, Tevilas Keilim pages 152-153.

⁴⁹ Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita, see Rosh Avoda Zara 5:35, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:10, Tevilas Keilim 10:pages 190-191 in depth,

⁵⁰ Refer to Tevilas Keilim 10:page 191. See Sefer Hamanhig page 97.

⁵¹ Refer to Shulchan Aruch 120:14-15, Taz 16-17, Shach 28, Pischei Teshuva 14, G'ra 36, Levush 14, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 37:12, Chai Ha'Levi 4:59:2. If one gives a utensil to a young child he should make sure he watches the child while he is *toveling* the utensil (Chai Ha'Levi 4:58:2).

⁵² Taz 12, Darchei Teshuva 106



KOF-K

Kosher Supervision 201 THE PLAZA, TEANECK, NJ 07666-5156 201.837.0500 FAX:201.837.0126

e-mail: info@kof-k.org • website: www.kof-k.org

tevilas keilim.⁵³ If an adult is watching a child do the *tevilla* the child may recite a *beracha* on the *tevila*.⁵⁴ Some say that a young child below (*bar-mitzvah*) who *toveled* glass utensils is believed to say he was *tovel* them and the *tevila* is good even without adult supervision.⁵⁵

Giving a Utensil as a Present

One who wants to give a present to someone should not *tovel* it first.⁵⁶ For example, one who gives a dish with *m'shloach manos* should put a sticker on the dish saying it was not *toveled*.

⁵³ *Tevilas Keilim* pages 154-156 in depth.

⁵⁴ *Darchei Teshuva* 105, *Hakotton V'hilchosuv* 40:2, Refer to *Chanoch L'nar* 30:footnote 2.

⁵⁵ *Tevilas Keilim* 8:1, *Tzitz Eliezer* 13:75:2, *Zichron Betzalel* 2:57:4-6.

⁵⁶ *Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita*, see *Minchas Shlomo* 2:66:20, *Teshuvos V'hanhugos* 1:452, *Shalmei Moed* 97:pages 554, *Tevilas Keilim* pages 239-241 in depth.