



Managing Your Mitzvos Class #11

Maintaining a Kosher Home – Part III



5. Tevilas Keilim – Immersion of Utensils in a Mikveh:

Please note: When discussing the laws of Immersing utensils in a Mikveh, the Mikveh must be a 100% Kosher Mikveh that could also be used for women. That could be the very Mikveh that people use, a lake, or special smaller Mikveh that is designated strictly for utensils.

Criteria for Immersing Utensils in the Mikveh. These may be classified according to:

1. TYPES OF UTENSILS:

1. Eating and drinking utensils, and utensils used for cooking, frying, making or other food preparation, all require tevilah [immersion in a Mikveh] if they were manufactured or purchased from a non-Jew.
2. The aforementioned utensils must be immersed in the Mikveh, whether they are brought to the table or not; whether they are new or old; or whether they are used for hot or cold food.
3. Utensils used in the initial stages of food preparation; e.g., kneading utensils, meat grinders, etc, are immersed without a blessing.
4. Only utensils that come into direct contact with food or drink require tevilah.
5. Disposable utensils, utensils manufactured from aluminum foil, do not require tevilah.
6. Storage bottles/containers require tevilah (if food or drink stored in them is unwrapped). If these containers are not normally brought to the table, no blessing is said.
7. Utensils manufactured from metal: aluminum, tin, iron, gold, silver, copper, steel, lead, etc., and glass utensils require tevilah with a blessing.
8. Utensils manufactured from plastic, marble, ceramic, formica, or glazed china do not require tevilah. (Antique china does require tevilah with a blessing.)
9. Utensils Manufactured from wood, bone, stone, or uncoated earthenware do not require tevilah.
10. Utensils manufactured from porcelain, Pyrex, enamel, and Duralux, Corningware, Corelle, and Teflon coating require tevilah, but no blessing is said.

2. SOURCES OF UTENSILS:

1. Utensils manufactured in a factory owned by non-Jews require tevilah with a blessing.
2. Utensils manufactured in a factory owned by a Jew do not require tevilah.
3. Utensils manufactured in a factory owned jointly by a Jew and a non-Jew require tevilah with a blessing.
4. When a utensil is purchased from a Jewish retailer, you must determine where it was manufactured. If that is not possible, tevilah is required. If the majority of factories in a given country are at least partially owned by non-Jews, a blessing is also said.
5. Utensils imported from Japan, China or Europe all require tevilah with a blessing.
6. Utensils imported from Israel do not require tevilah.

3. MODES OF ACQUISITION OF UTENSILS:

1. Utensils purchased or received as a gift from a non-Jew require tevilah with a blessing.
2. Utensils purchased or received as a gift from a Jew, but manufactured by a non-Jew require tevilah with a blessing.
3. Utensils owned jointly by a Jew and a non-Jew do not require tevilah.
4. A Jew who borrows or rents a utensil from a non-Jew may use it without tevilah (but it must be kashered when necessary).
5. A Jew who borrows or rents from a Jew utensils that require tevilah may not use them without tevilah.
6. When in another person's house, one should avoid eating or drinking from utensils requiring tevilah that have not been immersed.
7. Food served from or cooked in utensils that require tevilah may still be eaten.
8. Utensils that were owned by a non-Jew before he converted to Judaism:
 - a. Do not require tevilah if he immersed them properly before his conversion.
 - b. Do require tevilah if he did not immerse them properly before conversion, but no blessing is said.

4. USING UTENSILS BEFORE TEVILAH:

1. Utensils may be kept in the house before tevilah.
2. Before tevilah, they may not be used for eating and/or cooking, even on a temporary basis – even once.
3. Food cooked in a utensil that has not been immersed should be removed from the utensil as soon as possible, and may then be eaten.
4. Even though a utensil has already been used many times without tevilah, it may nevertheless not be used again until it has been immersed.
5. It is unnecessary to remove the contents of cans, jars and bottles that were purchased from a non-Jew, even after the containers were opened. One may eat directly from these containers. Leftover food may be returned to these containers.
6. Even after those containers are emptied, new food may be placed in them without tevilah.
7. Electrical appliances that come in direct contact with food [e.g. toaster] should be immersed without a blessing. [Wait 36 hours before using them and there will be no damage to them.]
8. When tevilah is not possible (in the short-term) or practical, the utensil may be given to a non-Jew as a gift, and then borrowed back from him.
9. Whenever there is a doubt as to whether a utensil has undergone tevilah, or whether it requires tevilah, the utensil should be immersed without a blessing or immersed together with other vessels that do require a blessing.
10. If one or more utensils that require tevilah became mixed up with utensils that do not require tevilah:
 - a. They do not require tevilah if they are mixed up with many utensils and it is a great bother.
 - b. All the utensils should be immersed and a blessing said in the plural form, if the utensil got mixed up with a few others.

★ If an item that had already been to the Mikveh became treif (not kosher) and then it went through the koshering process and became kosher again, it does not require tevilah a second time.