

MIKVA IN NATURE: GENERAL CONCEPTS

Mikva in Nature: Rabbinic Guidance

Rabbinic guidance is recommended when using a river, lake, or spring as a mikva due to:

- Problems of mud, dirt, or sand, and
- Difficulty in checking if the person is fully underwater,
- It might not be a kosher mikva.

NOTE This section applies to the immersion of both utensils and people, since the same principles apply.

Mikva in Nature: Source of Water

Spring water, whether moving or stationary, is a kosher mikva.

Rain water is only a kosher mikva once it is stationary (just sitting in a pool, not flowing anywhere).

In neither case may the water enter a constructed mikva through a "kli," which includes being carried in a bucket or via pipes with bends and other places for water to collect. In the case of a pipe that may not be a kli, consult a rabbi.

Mikva in Nature: Measurements

A kosher mikva in nature:

- Must be 40 se'ah (about 192 gallons);
- Has no minimum depth;
- May be murky or muddy (but must be such that a cow would drink it); and
- May not drop in level more than 2 inches (3.1 cm) within 24 hours.