

# TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING (TEVILA)

## TUM'A: REMOVAL: MIKVA

### MIKVA IN NATURE

#### 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.

## LAKE AS MIKVA

### **Lakes or Ponds as Mikva**

A lake or pond may be a kosher mikva if it is:

- Fed from ground water (percolates through the soil); or
- Primarily fed from a spring; or
- Primarily fed from rain.

**NOTE** The rain must run into the lake or pond directly. If the water enters, or drains out, via pipes, it is not a kosher mikva. However, if the lake or pond gets rain from run-off from streets through pipes, it might be a kosher mikva. Consult a rabbi.

**NOTE** A lake or pond that drains out through a river or stream may not be a kosher mikva. Consult a rabbi.

**NOTE** A lake or pond into which a river or stream empties, might be a kosher mikva. Consult a rabbi.

**NOTE** A lake or pond with a river running into it and then out of it is considered a river. For immersing in a river, see [Rivers as Kosher Mikva](#).

## OCEAN AS MIKVA

## Oceans as Mikva

All oceans and seas are kosher mikvas, but other salty water (defined as water that a cow would not drink) is not kosher for immersion.

**NOTE** A rabbi should be consulted before using an ocean for immersion since there are other issues involved.

## RAINWATER AS MIKVA

### Rainwater as Mikva

Rainwater only purifies when it is stationary.

## RIVER AS MIKVA

### Rivers as Kosher Mikva

Rivers are only kosher mikvas when spring-fed. A river is a kosher mikva if it exists year round (not like a wadi, which is frequently dry and only flows after rainfall).

### Hot Springs as Mikva

Here are requirements for a hot spring as a mikva:

1. The temperature may not be above 98° F.
2. If the spring and immersing area are separate, any pipes used to bring water into the immersing area from the spring must be at least 3" in diameter. Consult a rabbi.
3. The mikva area must contain at least 40 seah of the spring water.
4. The mikva area must be hewn of rock or poured concrete, etc., but may not be prefabricated in one piece, like a hot tub.
5. The water may not reach the mikva area via a pump.

## SPRING AS MIKVA

### Spring as Mikva

Springs are always kosher mikvas as long as the volume in the place of immersion is at least 40 se'ah (192 gallons).

## TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING: PERSON

### Impurity that Mikva Does Not Remove

Normally covered parts of the body always have some type of impurity, even after immersion, and a mikva does not remove that impurity.

## TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING: UTENSILS

## INTRODUCTION TO TOVELING: UTENSILS

### Introduction to Tovelung: Utensils

Tevila is the Hebrew word for immersion. You must tovel (immerse in a mikva or other halachically purifying water) new utensils made of metal or other materials that require tevila unless you know that they were:

- Made by a Jew,
- Sold by a Jew, and
- Not owned by a non-Jew in between.

### Tovelung: Utensils: How To Tovel

To tovel a utensil, you may go to any kosher natural mikva (see section on natural mikvas) or to a mikvat keilim (a small mikva for utensils, often attached to the outside of a regular mikva building). To tovel several items, some of which require a blessing and some on which there is doubt whether a blessing is necessary, say the blessing over the item that requires the blessing and have in mind that the blessing will cover all the rest of your items.

Remember to remove all stickers, rust, etc., before you begin. Nail polish remover may help with stubborn stickers. Say the blessing al tevilat keilim and then let the item free fall through the water. Unlike with hagala, during which the item may be immersed in sections, when you tovel a utensil, the entire item must be in contact with the water at the same time, even if only for an instant.

### Toveling: Utensils: What Gets Toveled?

**NOTE** The main halacha applies to metal utensils that will be used repeatedly.

Say the blessing al tevilat keilim on metal or glass items--including Pyrex, Duralex, and Corelle--that come in contact with food. Items that require toveling include:

- Bowls
- Cups
- Forks
- Knives
- Pans
- Plates
- Pots
- Spoons
- Storage containers (only if they are brought to the table).

The below chart is copied with permission from the Star-K ([www.star-k.org](http://www.star-k.org)):

<u>Utensil</u>	<u>Tevila</u> <u>Guideline</u>	<u>Utensil</u>	<u>Tevila</u> <u>Guideline</u>
Aluminum Pans, Disposable <i>if intended to be used more than once</i>	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	Meat Tenderizer Hammer, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>
Aluminum Pans, Disposable <i>to be used only once</i>	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	Melamine	No <u>Tevila</u>
<u>Blech</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>	Metal Cutlery	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>
Blender with metal blade on bottom	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	Metal Flour and Sugar Storage Canisters	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>
Bone	No <u>Tevila</u>	Metal Pots Coated with Teflon, Enamel or Plastic	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>
Brush, Pastry	No <u>Tevila</u>	Metal Spoon Specifically for Medicine	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>
Brush for Grill, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	Microwave Turntable, Glass	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>
Can Opener	No <u>Tevila</u>	Mixer Beaters	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>
Cans, Reusable Empty <i>if opened by a Yehudi</i>	No <u>Tevila</u>	Paper	No <u>Tevila</u>
China, Bone	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	Peeler, Vegetable	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>
China, Glazed	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	Plastic	No <u>Tevila</u>

Colander, Metal	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Porcelain w/o Brocha</u>
Cookie Cutters, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Tacks w/o Brocha</u>
Cookie Sheets, Metal	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Cork Screw	No <u>Tevila</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
		Pins
		Metal
		or
		Wood
Corningware	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	<u>Sandwich with Brocha Maker</u>
Crockpot Ceramic Insert	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Crockpot Glass Lid	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
		Racks, Stainless Steel
Crockpot Outside Metal Shell	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Spatula with Brocha</u>
		Metal
Dish Rack, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Stoneware w/o Brocha</u>
Dishes, Ceramic	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u> , Non-Glazed
Earthenware, Non-Glazed <i>Dull Finish, e.g. Flower Pot</i>	No <u>Tevila</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
		Utensils, Glass
		not brought to the table
George Foreman Grill	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Glass <i>(including Pyrex, Duraalex &amp; Corelle)</i>	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>
Grater, Metal <i>used for foods that are ready to eat, eg, apples, onions</i>	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Toaster w/o Brocha</u> which will not break
Grater, Metal <i>used only for foods that need further cooking, eg potatoes</i>	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	<u>Toaster with Brocha</u> Oven rack & tray only
Hamburger Maker	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Hot Air Popcorn Maker, Metal	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Waffle with Brocha</u> Iron

Hot Water Urn, Metal	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Worting</u>	Tray
Knife, Arts & Crafts	<u>Brocha</u>	<u>Wood</u>
Knife Sharpener	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Tevila</u>
	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Wooden</u> /o <u>Brocha</u>
		Cask
		with
		Metal
		Straps
Meat Thermometer	No <u>Tevila</u>	

## TOVELING: UTENSILS: PARTS

### Toveling: Utensils: Stickers

Before immersing a food utensil in a mikva, remove anything attached to its surfaces.

**SITUATION** A sticker or something similar is found on a plate or other utensil after tevila.

#### WHAT TO DO

- If the sticker is less than half of the surface area and does not bother you by being there, the tevila is valid.
- If the sticker interferes with your use of the utensil or if you just want it removed, it must be removed and the tevila must be repeated.

### Toveling: Utensils: Electrical Cord or Heater

A utensil that requires immersion in a mikva should be immersed even if the utensil is connected to an electrical cord or heater, unless by immersing it you will ruin the entire appliance.

### Toveling: Lid

You must tovel a cooking-utensil lid bought from a non-Jew before you use the lid.

### Toveling a Disposable Aluminum Pan

If a disposable aluminum pan will be used once, tovel it without a blessing. If a disposable aluminum pan will be used more than once, tovel it with a blessing (al tevilat keilim). Even if you will line it with a double layer of foil, still tovel it.

## TOVELING: UTENSILS: MIXED MATERIALS

### Toveling: Mixed Materials

When toveling a utensil that is partly made of metal (which requires tevila) and partly made of plastic, wood, or another material that does not require tevila, you must dip all parts of the utensil into the mikva, even the parts that would not require tevila on their own.

## TOVELING: UTENSILS: KASHER OR TOVEL FIRST?

### Toveling: Utensils: Kasher or Tovel First?

If you have a non-kosher food utensil, kasher it before you immerse it in a mikva (tevila).

## TOVELING: UTENSILS: JEWS AND NON-JEWS

### Giving a Toveled Utensil to another Jew

If you toveled a utensil and gave it to another Jew, the Jew does not have to tovel it again.

### Giving a Toveled Utensil to a Non-Jew for Repair

If you give a utensil to a non-Jew for repair or to have a new part added, consult a [rabbi](#).

### **Toveling: Utensils: Borrowing Back Un-Toveled Utensils from Non-Jew**

Do not use utensils bought from a non-Jew or made by non-Jew until you [tovel](#) them. Instead, you may give them to a non-Jew and borrow them back, but you may only do this for 24 hours.