

# USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN: WRITING

## Spelling God's Name Defectively

You may write God's name in any language. But you may not physically erase or throw it away, so write it defectively (for example, “G-d”) to avoid future problems.

## Erasing God's Name: Physical Media

You may not erase a name of God that is written in chalk or other concrete but non-permanent substance (and certainly not if written in a permanent substance).

However, you can ask a non-Jew to erase it using a non-conventional method (*shinu'i*); for example, he may pour water above the name so that when the water runs across the letters, they will be dissolved.

## Erasing God's Name: Photo or Photocopy

You may not throw away even a photo or photocopy of one of God's names; it must be put into *sheimot*. You should be especially careful with children's school papers and homework!

## Erasing God's Name: Electronic Media

You may delete any non-permanent form of God's names, such as in e-mails, but you may not destroy printed versions, including printed versions of [www.practicalhalacha.com](http://www.practicalhalacha.com), with God's names.