Sukka: Schach: Materials

Non-*Kli*

You may not use a *kli* for *sukka schach*.

A *kli* is any item created with the intention of being used as a tool or utensil to make an activity easier.

EXAMPLES

- Bamboo if it had been used for any other purpose.
- Wooden ladder.
- Walking stick.

Non-Edible

A *sukka's* covering (*schach*) must consist of non-edible branches, leaves, or other materials of plant origin such as boards. You may use wooden boards (such as 2” x 4”s) to hold up *schach*, even though lumber is intended to be used for construction.

Size

Boards or tree trunks—whether used as *schach* or used to hold up *schach*--must be not more than 15 inches (38 cm) wide. A board--whether used as *schach* or used to hold up *schach*--more than 15 inches wide invalidates the area below it and you would have to sit under *kosher schach* in order to fulfill the *mitzva*. In the case of a board more than 15 inches wide: If the *sukka* has only three walls, the board may invalidate the *sukka*. Consult a *rabbi*.

Fresh

You may not use branches whose leaves will dry up in less than 8 days, intending to replace the branches with fresh ones during *chol ha'moed*; the custom is to use evergreen leaves only if you want to use leaves as *schach*.

Fasteners

Schach on the *sukka* must stay by itself without fasteners or connectors, even in a place with normally high wind. Any *man*-made fasteners--such as plastic, metal, or even hemp cord or rope--will invalidate the *schach*. If the *schach* will stay without them, then you may use fasteners or connectors as reinforcements.

Year-Round Structures

You may use a pergola, gazebo, or other type of awning frame or roof structure that exists year-round for a *sukka* as long as the other conditions (size, slope, materials, timing, etc.) are *kosher*. You must first remove any permanent roof coverings before putting on the *schach*.

NOTE The slope of the *sukka* roof must be less than 45 degrees from horizontal.

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