Sheimot: Disposal

These holy writings (<u>tashmishei kedusha</u>) may not be thrown directly into the trash, but should ideally be buried with like items (<u>sheimot</u>):

- Holy writings that contain God's name.
- Parts of Tanach (24-book Jewish Bible).
- Explanations of the *Torah* or commandments.

However, if a printed or written page (in contrast to parchment scrolls such as *tefilin*, *Torahs*, or *mezuzas*) contains God's name plus secular content, it must be double wrapped in plastic before being thrown in the trash.

REASON It would be a disgrace to bury *Torah* words with secular content.

NOTE You may find collection boxes (marked "sheimot/sheimos" or "geniza") at a local

Jewish school or *synagogue* into which you can deposit your *sheimot* items.

NOTE <u>Tashmishei mitzva</u>—items used to do a <u>mitzva</u> (such as <u>talit</u> or <u>tzitzit</u>)—must be wrapped in:

- One layer of plastic if they will be thrown away in dry trash, or
- Double layer of plastic if they will be thrown away into wet garbage.

Sheimot/Bury

Do not throw into trash, even if double wrapped:

- Handwritten scrolls of Torah, tefilin, mezuza.
- Printed Torah, Talmud, siddur, books of halacha, or Torah commentaries.

Rather, put them into a *sheimot* collection box or wrap in plastic and bury in a place where they will not be dug up. It does not need to be a cemetery.

Double Wrap and Throw into Trash

Double wrap and throw into trash:

• Newspapers and flyers that have <u>Torah psukim</u> or <u>Torah</u> commentaries and also have non-Torah content.

REASON Non-*Torah* material should not be buried as *sheimot*.

• Children's school handouts with *psukim* from the *Torah* or *halachot* that also contain non-*Torah* content (if they ONLY contain words of *Torah*, they should be buried as *sheimot*).

Single Wrap and Throw into Trash

For disposal of items used for <u>mitzvot</u> (<u>tashmishei mitzva</u>), you may wrap in one layer of plastic and throw it in normal garbage:

- Lulav,
- Etrog, or
- *Talit/tzitzit* (but NOT *tefilin*!)