KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: OTHER USEFUL CASES

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: CONDIMENTS

Cold Condiments Used for Dairy and Meat

B'di'avad, you may scoop out mayonnaise or mustard and spread it on meat and then scoop out more and then later use same condiment on *dairy* foods (and the same for *dairy* and later on meat) as long as any residual food is less than 1/60th of the total volume of food. But the preferred practice is to have two separate containers, one for *dairy* and one for meat foods.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: COUNTERTOPS

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: SEPARATE COUNTERTOPS

Separate Dairy and Meat Countertops

Ideally, allot separate counter space for meat and *dairy* so they do not share the same space.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: TASTE TRANSFER IN COUNTERTOPS

Hot, Wet Taste Transfer in Countertops

A hot (120° F--49° C--or more), wet utensil transfers its gender to a countertop upon which it is placed, but only at the area of contact.

Status of Countertop

1. Gender status of the countertop:
    - *D'rabanan*, the countertop area of contact remains that gender until *kashered* (as long as the countertop material is kasherable).
    - *D'oraita*, the countertop reverts to *kosher*-neutral/*pareve* after 24 hours.

    NOTE If the utensil and counter were not wet (nor dirty with food) at the area of contact, there is *b'di'avad* no transfer of gender.
2. If you put a hot, wet utensil of the opposite gender on that same spot, that counter space may become non-*kosher*.

STATUS OF UTENSILS

If the counter had not had a hot, wet utensil/container of food of the opposite gender placed on the same spot within 24 hours of each other, the utensils may be used and the utensils are still *kosher*.

STATUS OF FOOD

This does not apply to food that is *directly* placed on the counter, in which case the food might become non-*kosher*.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: CUTTING BOARDS

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Cutting Boards

SITUATION You cut a spicy/*charif* item of one gender on a cutting board (whether wood or plastic), and then cut the opposite-gender spicy/*charif* food on that same cutting board.

STATUS Generally, the board and the knife and whichever food was cut second becomes non-*kosher*.

Consult a *rabbi* for exceptions.

WHAT TO DO If you can sand off the surface to below the level of any knife cuts, the board might be *kosher*. Consult a *rabbi*.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: DISHWASHERS

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Dishwashers: Intentional Mixing of Utensils

You may not intentionally put a *pareve* utensil in a dishwasher that contains *dairy* or meat dishes. If you do, the formerly *pareve* utensil will take the gender of the other dishes, unless it is of glass, Pyrex, or other materials that do not take on gender when in hot water.

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Dishwashers: Accidental Mix-up

SITUATION After washing a load of utensils of one gender in your dishwasher, you find an item of the opposite gender in your dishwasher.

STATUS

- The single item is non-*kosher*.
- The remaining items will most likely be *kosher* (as long as the single item is less than 1/60th of the total volume of items and water in the dishwasher).

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Dishwashers: Neutral/Pareve Item

You may not wash a neutral/ *pareve* dish in a meat or *milk* dishwasher--even if there are no dirty dishes with *milk* or meat on them and even if there are no other dishes in the dishwasher. If you did, the neutral/*pareve* dish may have become the gender of the dishwasher, but consult a *rabbi* for leniencies.

SITUATION You have a meat or *milk* dishwasher and you washed a neutral/*pareve* utensil in it.

WHAT TO DO If the dishwasher has dirty dishes containing *milk* or meat food, the neutral/*pareve* utensil will become that gender. However, if the dishwasher does not have any dirty dishes with food of either gender on them and the dishwasher has not been used for at least 24 hours, the *pareve* dish will remain *pareve*.

NOTE This is a *b'di'avad* (after the fact) case. You may not intentionally (*l'chatchila*) wash the *pareve* utensil in a gendered dishwasher.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: DRAWERS

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Drawers

SITUATION You find an eating or cooking utensil of one gender in a drawer of the opposite gender.

STATUS You may use the item without *kashering* it.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: MICROWAVE OVENS

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Microwave Ovens

As with conventional ovens, these factors determine *kosher*/non-*kosher* status for a microwave oven:

- Was it clean?
- Did the interior surfaces get hot (120° F--49° C--or more)?
- Was it used in the previous 24 hours?

NOTE Microwave ovens do not have the problems of *bishul akum* that conventional ovens have.

How To Check If a Microwave Oven Will Get Hot during Cooking

To determine if the walls of a microwave oven will get hot during cooking:

- Boil water for as long as food would typically be cooked in that microwave oven, and

- Touch the inside walls, floor, door, and ceiling
    - If the walls are too hot to touch, the walls may acquire the gender of any food cooked in the oven. (If the walls are already the opposite gender when cooking a food, the oven may become non-*kosher*.)
    - If the walls are not too hot to touch, then no change of status occurs.

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Microwave Oven Dishes

You may microwave a *dairy* food in a meat (or meat food in a *dairy*) glass (or Pyrex or Corelle) utensil. Even if the food gets hotter than 120 degrees, the food and utensil are still both *kosher*. (This is not true if placed in a conventional oven!)

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: POT LIDS

Kashrut: Dairy/Meat: Pot Lids

Pot lids are treated as if they are utensils.

SITUATION
- You put a lid of one gender on a pot of the opposite gender.
- The pot is more than 120° F (49° C).

STATUS The lid becomes non-*kosher* and the pot and food inside usually will be non-*kosher*, but ask a *rabbi* about possible leniencies.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: REFRIGERATORS

Refrigerators and Hot Pots of Dairy/Meat

Hot pots on a refrigerator shelf with pots of the opposite gender that touch each other are only a problem if wet. There is no problem if they are:

- Both cold, or
- Even if they are spicy.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: SINKS

Sink Racks and Dairy/Meat

Two racks or other utensils, one *dairy* and the other meat--that are used in a single sink (whether together or sequentially) may become non-*kosher* if they ever reach more than 120° F (49° C) while in the sink. Consult a *rabbi*.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: SPONGES

Sponges and Dairy/Meat

SITUATION You inadvertently use a brush or sponge (hotter than 120° F--49° C) of one gender on a utensil of the opposite gender.

STATUS The sponge or brush becomes non-*kosher*, but ask a *rabbi* about the status of the utensil.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: STEAM

Steam and Utensils of Dairy/Meat

SITUATION Steam of one gender touched a utensil of opposite gender.

WHAT TO DO Ask a *rabbi*.

KASHRUT: DAIRY/MEAT: STOVETOP

Stovetop Surfaces: Kosher Status

A stovetop surface is likely to be non-*kosher* due to previous spills of both genders.

REASON The stovetop will have been heated to more than 120° F (49° C) from:

- A large spill, and
- Likely, from the oven below.

Stovetop Surfaces: Clean, Cold Utensil

SITUATION A dry, clean, cold utensil is put on a dry, clean, hot stovetop.
STATUS The utensil is *kosher b'di'avad*.

Stovetop Surfaces: Hot Utensil with Food

Situation

A hot (120° F--49° C--or more) lid or utensil (such as a spoon, fork, or ladle) containing food is put on a stovetop surface. Consider:

- Temperature of stovetop;
- Volume of food on lid or fork/spoon;
- Timing--Was the stovetop used at 120° F or more within 24 hours? (If not and if it is clean, everything is *kosher b'di'avad*.)

Status of Utensil

- **Utensil: Dry.**

  Stove: Clean.
  Utensil is *kosher*.

- **Utensil: Dry or wet.**

  Stove: Dirty.
  Utensil is non-*kosher*.

- **Utensil: Wet.**

  Stove (clean or dirty); had hot opposite-gender food on it within previous 24 hours.
  Utensil is not *kosher*.

- **Utensil: Dry or wet.**

  Stove: Clean; no hot opposite-gender food on it within the previous 24 hours:
  Utensil is *kosher*.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com