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.

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