SHABBAT: COLORING (TZOVEI'A)

Introduction to Shabbat: Coloring (Tzovei'a)

Since wool and/or leather was dyed for the *Tabernacle* in the desert, similar actions are forbidden today on *Shabbat*. Any action that causes one item or substance to change its color may be forbidden, even if it is not related to dyeing wool and/or leather.

Shabbat: Coloring (Tzovei'a): Food

You may not add a substance, whether food or other, in order to color food on *Shabbat*. You may add food to other food even if it will cause the other food to become colored as long as that is not your intention.

Shabbat: Coloring (Tzovei'a): Cloth

You may wipe a stain off of your face or hands onto a cloth or piece of paper if you do it to clean your face or hands on *Shabbat*, but not if you want to color the cloth or paper.

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