TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING (TEVILA)

TUM'A: REMOVAL: MIKVA

MIKVA IN NATURE

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.

LAKE AS MIKVA

Lakes or Ponds as Mikva

A lake or pond may be a *kosher mikva* if it is:

- Fed from ground water (percolates through the soil); or
- Primarily fed from a spring; or
- Primarily fed from rain.

NOTE The rain must run into the lake or pond directly. If the water enters, or drains out, via pipes, it is not a *kosher mikva*. However, if the lake or pond gets rain from run-off from streets through pipes, it might be a *kosher mikva*. Consult a *rabbi*.

NOTE A lake or pond that drains out through a river or stream may not be a *kosher mikva*. Consult a *rabbi*.

NOTE A lake or pond into which a river or stream empties, might be a *kosher mikva*. Consult a *rabbi*.

NOTE A lake or pond with a river running into it and then out of it is considered a river. For immersing in a river, see Rivers as *Kosher Mikva*.

OCEAN AS MIKVA

Oceans as Mikva

All oceans and seas are *kosher mikvas*, but other salty water (defined as water that a cow would not drink) is not *kosher* for immersion.

NOTE A *rabbi* should be consulted before using an ocean for immersion since there are other issues involved.

RAINWATER AS MIKVA

Rainwater as Mikva

Rainwater only purifies when it is stationary.

RIVER AS MIKVA

Rivers as Kosher Mikva

Rivers are only *kosher mikva*s when spring-fed. A river is a *kosher mikva* if it exists year round (not like a *wadi*, which is frequently dry and only flows after rainfall).

Hot Springs as Mikva

Here are requirements for a hot spring as a *mikva*:

1. The temperature may not be above 98° F.
2. If the spring and immersing area are separate, any pipes used to bring water into the immersing area from the spring must be at least 3" in diameter. Consult a *rabbi*.
3. The *mikva* area must contain at least 40 *seah* of the spring water.
4. The *mikva* area must be hewn of rock or poured concrete, etc., but may not be prefabricated in one piece, like a hot tub.
5. The water may not reach the *mikva* area via a pump.

SPRING AS MIKVA

Spring as Mikva

Springs are always *kosher mikvas* as long as the volume in the place of immersion is at least 40 *se'ah* (192 gallons).

TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING: PERSON

Impurity that Mikva Does Not Remove

Normally covered parts of the body always have some type of impurity, even after immersion, and a *mikva* does not remove that impurity.

TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING: UTENSILS

INTRODUCTION TO TOVELING: UTENSILS

Introduction to Toveling: Utensils

Tevila is the *Hebrew* word for immersion. You must *tovel* (immerse in a *mikva* or other halachically purifying water) new utensils made of metal or other materials that require *tevila* unless you know that they were:

- Made by a Jew,
- Sold by a Jew, and
- Not owned by a non-Jew in between.

Toveling*: Utensils: How To *Tovel

To *tovel* a utensil, you may go to any *kosher* natural *mikva* (see section on natural mikvas) or to a mikvat keilim (a small *mikva* for utensils, often attached to the outside of a regular *mikva* building). To *tovel* several items, some of which require a blessing and some on which there is doubt whether a blessing is necessary, say the blessing over the item that requires the blessing and have in mind that the blessing will cover all the rest of your items.
Remember to remove all stickers, rust, etc., before you begin. Nail polish remover may help with stubborn stickers. Say the blessing *al tevilat keilim* and then let the item free fall through the water. Unlike with *hagala*, during which the item may be immersed in sections, when you *tovel* a utensil, the entire item must be in contact with the water at the same time, even if only for an instant.

***Toveling*: Utensils: What Gets *Toveled*?**

NOTE The main *halacha* applies to metal utensils that will be used repeatedly.
Say the blessing *al tevilat keilim* on metal or glass items--including Pyrex, Duralex, and Corelle--that come in contact with food. Items that require *toveling* include:

- Bowls
- Cups
- Forks
- Knives
- Pans
- Plates
- Pots
- Spoons
- Storage containers (only if they are brought to the table).

The below chart is copied with permission from the Star-K (www.star-k.org):

Utensil	***Tevila* Guideline**	**Utensil**	***Tevila* Guideline**
Aluminum Pans, Disposable *if intended to be used more than once*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Meat Tenderizer Hammer, Metal	No *Tevila*
Aluminum Pans, Disposable *to be used only once*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Melamine	No *Tevila*
Blech	No *Tevila*	Metal Cutlery	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Blender with metal blade on bottom	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Metal Flour and Sugar Storage Canisters	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Bone	No *Tevila*	Metal Pots Coated with Teflon, Enamel or Plastic	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Brush, Pastry	No *Tevila*	Metal Spoon Specifically for Medicine	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Brush for Grill, Metal	No *Tevila*	Microwave Turntable, Glass	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Can Opener	No *Tevila*	Mixer Beaters	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Cans, Reusable Empty *if opened by a Yehudi*	No *Tevila*	Paper	No *Tevila*
China, Bone	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Peeler, Vegetable	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
China, Glazed	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Plastic	No *Tevila*

Colander, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Cookie Cutters, Metal	No *Tevila*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Cookie Sheets, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Cork Screw	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Corningware	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Crockpot Ceramic Insert	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Crockpot Glass Lid	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Crockpot Outside Metal Shell	No *Tevila*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Dish Rack, Metal	No *Tevila*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Dishes, Ceramic	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Earthenware, Non-Glazed *Dull Finish, e.g. Flower Pot*	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
George Foreman Grill	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Glass *(including Pyrex, Duralex & Corelle)*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Grater, Metal *used for foods that are ready to eat, eg, apples, onions*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Grater, Metal *used only for foods that need further cooking,eg potatos*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Hamburger Maker	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Hot Air Popcorn Maker, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Pizza Oven	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Plastic	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Pots, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Pots, Stainless Steel	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Pyrex	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Rolling Pin *Metal or Wood*	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Sandwich Maker	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Silicone	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Sink	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Spatula, Metal	No *Tevila*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Stoneware	No *Tevila*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Stoneware, Non-Glazed	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Storage Utensils, Glass *not brought to the table*	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Stove Top Grill	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	No *Tevila*
Tea Kettle, Corelle	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Toaster *which will not break*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Toaster Oven *rack & tray only*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*
Trivet, Metal	No *Tevila*	No *Tevila*
Waffle Iron	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*

Hot Water Urn, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Wooden Tray
Knife, Arts & Crafts	No *Tevila*	Wood *Tevila*
Knife Sharpener	No *Tevila*	Wooden Cask with Metal Straps *Tevila* w/o *Brocha*
Meat Thermometer	No *Tevila*	

TOVELING: UTENSILS: PARTS

Toveling: Utensils: Stickers

Before immersing a food utensil in a *mikva*, remove anything attached to its surfaces.

SITUATION A sticker or something similar is found on a plate or other utensil after *tevila*.

WHAT TO DO

- If the sticker is less than half of the surface area and does not bother you by being there, the *tevila* is valid.
- If the sticker interferes with your use of the utensil or if you just want it removed, it must be removed and the *tevila* must be repeated.

Toveling: Utensils: Electrical Cord or Heater

A utensil that requires immersion in a *mikva* should be immersed even if the utensil is connected to an electrical cord or heater, unless by immersing it you will ruin the entire appliance.

Toveling: Lid

You must *tovel* a cooking-utensil lid bought from a non-Jew before you use the lid.

Toveling a Disposable Aluminum Pan

If a disposable aluminum pan will be used once, *tovel* it without a blessing. If a disposable aluminum pan will be used more than once, *tovel* it with a blessing (*al tevilat keilim*). Even if you will line it with a double layer of foil, still *tovel* it.

TOVELING: UTENSILS: MIXED MATERIALS

Toveling: Mixed Materials

When *toveling* a utensil that is partly made of metal (which requires *tevila*) and partly made of plastic, wood, or another material that does not require *tevila*, you must dip all parts of the utensil into the *mikva*, even the parts that would not require *tevila* on their own.

TOVELING: UTENSILS: KASHER OR TOVEL FIRST?

Toveling: Utensils: Kasher or Tovel First?

If you have a non-*kosher* food utensil, *kasher* it before you immerse it in a *mikva* (*tevila*).

TOVELING: UTENSILS: JEWS AND NON-JEWS

Giving a Toveled Utensil to another Jew

If you *toveled* a utensil and gave it to another Jew, the Jew does not have to *tovel* it again.

Giving a Toveled Utensil to a Non-Jew for Repair

If you give a utensil to a non-Jew for repair or to have a new part added, consult a *rabbi*.

Toveling: Utensils: Borrowing Back Un-Toveled Utensils from Non-Jew

Do not use utensils bought from a non-Jew or made by non-Jew until you *tovel* them. Instead, you may give them to a non-Jew and borrow them back, but you may only do this for 24 hours.

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