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
Bone	No *Tevila*	Metal Pots Coated with Teflon, Enamel or Plastic
Brush, Pastry	No *Tevila*	Metal Spoon Specifically for Medicine
Brush for Grill, Metal	No *Tevila*	Microwave Turntable, Glass
Can Opener	No *Tevila*	Mixer Beaters
Cans, Reusable Empty *if opened by a Yehudi*	No *Tevila*	Paper
China, Bone	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Peeler, Vegetable
China, Glazed	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Plastic
Colander, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Pots Coated w/ Enamel
Cookie Cutters, Metal	No *Tevila*	Racks, Cooling
Cookie Sheets, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Racks, Oven
Cork Screw	No *Tevila*	Rolling Pins *Metal or Wood*
Corningware	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Sandwich Maker
Crockpot Ceramic Insert	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Silicone
Crockpot Glass Lid	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Sink Racks, Stainless Steel
Crockpot Outside Metal Shell	No *Tevila*	Spatula, Metal
Dish Rack, Metal	No *Tevila*	Stoneware

Metal w/o *Brocha*
Metal w/o *Brocha*
Metal w/o *Brocha*
Microwave w/o *Brocha*
Mixer w/o *Brocha*
No *Tevila*
Peeler, Vegetable with *Brocha*
Plastic *Tevila*
Pots Coated w/o *Brocha*
Racks, Cooling w/o *Brocha*
Racks, Oven *Tevila*
Rolling Pins *Metal or Wood* *Tevila*
Sandwich Maker with *Brocha*
Silicone *Tevila*
Sink *Tevila*
Spatula, Metal with *Brocha*
Stoneware w/o *Brocha*

Dishes, Ceramic	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Stoneware, Non-Glazed
Earthenware, Non-Glazed *Dull Finish, e.g. Flower Pot*	No *Tevila*	Storage Utensils, Glass *not brought to the table*
George Foreman Grill	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Tea Kettle, Corelle
Glass *(including Pyrex, Duralex & Corelle)*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Toaster w/o *Brocha* which *will not break*
Grater, Metal *used for foods that are ready to eat, eg, apples, onions*	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Toaster with *Brocha* Oven *rack & tray only*
Grater, Metal *used only for foods that need further cooking,eg potatos*	*Tevila* w/o *Brocha*	Trivet, Metal
Hamburger Maker	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Waffle Iron
Hot Air Popcorn Maker, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Warming Tray
Hot Water Urn, Metal	*Tevila* with *Brocha*	Wood Cask with Metal Straps
Knife, Arts & Crafts	No *Tevila*	Wooden Bowl
Knife Sharpener	No *Tevila*	
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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