TZITZIT: CHECKING

TZITZIT: HOW TO CHECK

Tzitzit: For What To Check

Torn

In checking *tzitzit*, determine:

- Are any loops torn?
- Are 8 strings visible on each corner?

If you cannot see 7 strings due to one or more having been torn off, consult a *rabbi*.

Tangled

There is no problem if *tzitzit* are tangled. However, to untangle them:

- Is a superior way to fulfill the *mitzva*, and
- Allows you to easily check them to see if there are 8 *tzitziyot*.

Frizzy

If any *tzitziyot* are so frizzy that the individual *tzitziyot* cannot be distinguished, they are invalid (*pasul*).

NOTE To prevent frizziness during laundering, wrap the *tzitziyot* tightly in a rubber band before drying them in a dryer, or hang them to dry.

NOTE

- If the hanging end of a *tzitzit* string breaks below the lowest knot, the string is *kosher*.
- If more than one string breaks, or if one string breaks above the lowest knot, consult a *rabbi* since the *tzitzit* may not be *kosher*.

TZITZIT: WHEN TO CHECK

Tzitzit Checking: Before Blessing

You are not required to check *tzitzit* on a *talit katan* or *talit gadol* each day.

REASON We assume, based on the norm (*chazaka*), that the *tzitzit* are OK.

But it is a good idea to check them before saying the blessing over them each day.

Tzitzit Checking: Shabbat and Jewish Festivals

Do not check *tzitzit* on *Shabbat* or *Jewish festivals*.

REASON If there is something wrong, you might untangle them and thereby untie a knot, which is prohibited from the *Torah*.

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