

בית הוראה דיעטראיט
BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher • Rav Yissachar Wolf • Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN • SHABBOS • YOM TOV • BRACHOS • AVEILUS • TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA • EVERYDAY SHAILOS

ISSUE # 18 –Tevilas Keilim FAQs

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Below are some common questions and answers based on psakim from the rabbonim of the Bais Horaah. Please note: in the event one believes they have heard a different opinion in the past, one's family posek should always be consulted. Mareh mekomos for any specific answers below are available by email request to ask@bhdetroit.org.

- **Is one required to toivel electrical appliances such as a Kuerig K-Cup machine or a Betty Crocker Pizza Maker?**
 - Electrical appliances are not exempt from tevila. Many electrical appliances can be safely toiveled with a specific method that prevents damage to the internal parts. This includes most simple appliances which do not have digital components. Contact the Bais Horaah with regard to specific appliances and how to perform the method safely. For appliances which cannot be toiveled with the above method, a different solution needs to be implemented. A Halachic Authority should be consulted for the proper method.
- **Do china dishes require tevila?**
 - China dishes are made from clay, a material that does not require tevila. However, the glaze on real china dishes is a form of glass. Glass coating does require tevila. This glaze, though, is extremely thin and as such many halachic opinions maintain that tevila is not required. Some have a family minhag to toivel china. In all cases, no bracha is made on the tevila of china.
- **Do ceramic mugs made of porcelain or stoneware require tevila?**
 - Mugs made of these materials have the same status as China. See above.
- **Do aluminum foil pans require tevila?**
 - On account of several Halachic considerations, there is room to be lenient and one may use a disposable aluminum pan one time without toiveleding it.
- **Is it permitted to use a utensil which requires tevila, one time without tevila?**
 - No. The leniency mentioned in the above answer is specific to disposable aluminum pans. All other utensils have no such leniency.
- **I accidentally used a utensil without toiveleding it first. Is the food permitted to eat?**
 - It is prohibited to use a utensil prior to tevila. However, if it was used, the food is not prohibited.
- **Do cookie cutters or food scissors which will only be used for non-ready-to-eat food require tevila?**
 - Such items should be toiveled without a bracha since it is also normal to use them for ready-to-eat food. (Even though you personally may not plan to do so.)
- **Does a vegetable peeler require tevila?**
 - Generally, a vegetable peeler requires tevila with a bracha. If one will be using it exclusively for potatoes or other non-ready-to-eat foods, the peeler requires tevila without a bracha.
- **Does a nutcracker require tevila?**
 - A nutcracker requires tevila without a bracha.
- **Does a can opener or corkscrew require tevila?**
 - These utensils do not require tevila because their purpose is for opening the bottle or can and not to handle the food.
- **Does a food thermometer require tevila?**
 - These do not require tevila. This includes models with a probe that touches the food.
- **Does a wooden challah board with a glass covering require tevila?**
 - Yes. Since the glass is not intended to be detached on a regular basis, the entire board must be toiveled - including the wooden base. It is recommended to unscrew the glass after tevila in order to properly dry out the wood. This applies even to challah boards purchased in Eretz Yisroel, unless it has been ascertained that it was made in a Jewish-owned factory.
- **Do glass storage containers that are not brought to the table require tevila?**
 - If they are used exclusively to store non-ready-to-eat items, no tevila is required. Otherwise, because they are purely for storage, not table use, and are made out of glass, they should be toiveled without a bracha.

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- **Does a pocketknife or (non-kitchen) scissors require tevila in order to be used for food?**
 - If one intends to use the non-kitchen scissors or pocketknife with food on a regular basis, tevila with a bracha is required. If they will primarily be used for non-food purposes - but will be used occasionally for food purposes - they must be toiveled without a bracha. Note: When toiveling these items, they must be opened so that cutting surfaces are exposed.
- **If a pan is covered with muffin tin liners, parchment paper or aluminum foil, does it still require tevila?**
 - Yes. These coverings do not remove the tevila requirement.
- **Do Corelle, Pyrex or Duralux dishes require tevillah?**
 - Yes. As these products are made from glass, tevila with a bracha is required. Please note, Corelle sets often include stoneware mugs which are not made from glass. See above regarding stoneware mugs.
- **Does a ladle or tongs made partially from plastic and partially from metal require tevila?**
 - If the metal does not come into contact with the food, and the plastic portion could technically be used on its own, without the metal, tevila is not required. Otherwise, tevila without a bracha is required.
- **Does a silicone spatula with a metal core, or a metal baby spoon with a plastic coating, require tevila?**
 - Even though plastic does not typically require tevila, because in this case the metal is integral to their function, they should be toiveled without a bracha.
- **Is it permissible to toivel utensils in a lake or river?**
 - Tevilas keilim should ideally be performed in a mikvah that is certified by a reliable Rav hamachshir. If such a mikvah is not available, it is permitted to toivel keilim in an ocean or in one of the Great Lakes. Other bodies of water may be acceptable; a Halachic Authority must be consulted.
- **Must stickers be removed prior to tevila?**
 - In general, stickers, glue, and packaging must be removed prior to tevila. A sticker which (a) doesn't bother the owner, (b) wouldn't bother most people, and (c) is water-resistant, does not need to be removed. If a sticker which requires removal was unintentionally left on, the utensil must be toiveled again. A small amount of residual, difficult-to-remove adhesive in an inconspicuous location may be ignored. Note: It is often necessary to use a product such as Goo-Gone or WD-40 to remove difficult stickers.
- **Do oven racks require tevila?**
 - Even if one occasionally puts food directly on the rack, no tevila of the racks is required.
- **Do microwaves or toaster ovens require tevila?**
 - These appliances do not need tevila; however, the rack or glass turntable must be toiveled if food will be placed on it.
- **Should pre-seasoned cast iron cookware - which needs to be kashered - be toiveled first?**
 - Certain brands of cast iron cookware are pre-seasoned with a potentially non-kosher substance. Contact the Bais Horaah with the specific product to determine whether it requires kashering. If kashering is required, it must be done prior to tevila.
- **Can I have a child toivel utensils for me?**
 - This may be done only if an adult is present in the room, and supervising to ensure that the tevila is done correctly. Even if the child is knowledgeable and trustworthy, he or she may not perform tevila without an adult present. If the child will be the only one toiveling (under adult supervision), the child should be the one to make the bracha.

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