

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

GLASS STOVETOP

We will see in future installments that glass cannot be *kashered* with *hag'alah* but can be *kashered* with *libun kal*. At first glance, it seems simple enough to perform *libun kal* for a glass stovetop by just turning on the burners as this will cause the stovetop to get heated up. A weakness of this method is that the heat comes from underneath the glass, and as discussed in a previous installment, there is a requirement that the heat or water of *kashering* come from the side where the food goes.

It was suggested that a glass stovetop should have the (lenient) status of a *chatzuvah* (stovetop grate) which *Rema* 451:4 rules can be *kashered* for *Pesach* with *libun kal* even though hot, solid food occasionally drops onto it and does not need any *kashering* for non-*Pesach* use. However, Rav Schachter questioned the comparison to a *chatzuvah* because the glass between the burners does not get as hot as a *chatzuvah* (which is right over the fire) and *b'lios* might not get burnt up as quickly as with a traditional flame.

Others have suggested different methods of adding some sort of layer of insulation above the glass stovetop so as to trap heat which would bring the heat of *libun kal* from above the glass. These suggestions are even more problematic, because the manufacturers specifically warn that the stovetop should never be covered in this

type of manner, because doing so might crack the glass. Accordingly, any idea which involves covering the glass, would seemingly be invalid due to the concern of *חיים עליהו שמא פקעי*, discussed in previous installments.

Due to these different concerns and difficulties in properly *kashering* a glass stovetop, some opt to use it without *kashering* by placing metal discs (or a "diffuser plate") on the stovetop, and all pots are then put onto the discs. No food or pots are put on the glass, and the glass is considered non-kosher (or *chametz*). Putting the pots onto discs means that no *ta'am* will transfer between the glass stovetop and the kosher pot, and the food in the pot will be unaffected by the stovetop's status.

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82. Does a glass stovetop have the lenient status of a *חצובה*?

No.

Therefore, for example, a non-kosher glass stovetop in a hotel room should not be used until it is *kashered*.

See *Derech Kitzarah Issue #6* (question 19) for cRc Policy on *kashering a glass stovetop*

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף ו'
משנה ברורה תנ"א ס"ק ל"ד

