

# דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

## KOVUSH GENERAL RULES [Part 2]

### Time

In general, it takes 24 consecutive hours for *kevishah* to occur. An exception to that rule is that if the forbidden liquid is so salty that it is similar to ציר (fish brine), the *ta'am* is absorbed in and out in just 6- 18 minutes (כדי שיעמוד על האש וירתיח). Therefore, for example, when cheese is brined in a non-kosher brine tank, the tanks must be *kashered* or lined even if the cheese sits there for less than 24 hours, because *kovush* will happen in a few minutes.

*Shulchan Aruch* goes one step further and says that the quick-*kovush* of כדי שיעמוד על also applies when the liquid is something חריף/sharp, such as vinegar, but *Shach* argues that *kovush* for *charif* takes a full 24 hours. *Magen Avraham* says that one should adopt the strict position of *Shulchan Aruch*, and resolves an apparent contradiction within that opinion by suggesting that even the *machmirim* only adopt that position when dealing with "strong vinegar", but would be lenient for "weak vinegar". *Mishnah Berurah* rejects *Magen Avraham* and rules that one can leniently assume that *kovush* for vinegar takes 24 hours. That is to say that one can be lenient even in the case of "strong vinegar" (i.e., the case where *Magen Avraham* was *machmir*).

Many American *hashgachos* have adopted this lenient position. Accordingly, one set of bottling equipment can be used for both kosher and non-kosher vinegar, assuming the vinegar never remains in the equipment for 24 consecutive hours. Although the vinegar will invariably remain in the bottling tanks for more than 6-18 minutes, the assumption is that *kovush* takes 24 hours, and therefore *kovush* does not occur.

In general, in cases where *kovush* takes 24 hours to draw a *b'liah* out of a utensil, the status of the kosher food held in that utensils is not affected *b'dieved*, because the *ta'am* is *aino ben yomo* by the time it comes out of the utensil. However, if the kosher food is *charif* then the *charif* food reinvigorates the *aino ben yomo b'lios* and renders them "fresh" and forbidden once again (מחליא ליה לשבח). Therefore, if the kosher food is *charif*, *kovush* takes 24 hours but when that 24 hours is complete, the food is assur even *b'dieved*. [It is irrelevant if the non-kosher products were *charif* or not].

### Depth

Generally, when *kovush* occurs the *ta'am* is generally absorbed through the entire thickness of the utensil. That is to say that if the utensil is a quarter of an inch thick the entire



thickness absorbs *ta'am*, and this must be born in mind when considering (a) if those *b'lios* are *batel* into a food subsequently cooked in that utensil, and (b) how to *kasher* the utensil. However, the same is not true when only part of the container was *kovush*. In those cases, the part which was *kovush* absorbs fully, but the part which did not have contact with the liquid does not absorb. For example, if a barrel was 80% full of liquid, the other 20% of the barrel does not absorb *ta'am* via *kovush* unless the liquid qualifies as a *דבר שמן* (*fatty item*).

In a future installment we will discuss how one *kashers* a utensil which became non-kosher through *kovush*.

## CRC POLICIES

91. How long does *kovush* take when the liquid is:

a. ציר/brine?

6 minutes

b. דבר חריף?

24 hours. This is true regardless of how חריף the item is.

92. A forbidden liquid was *kovush* in a barrel for 24 hours, but the liquid only filled 80% of the barrel. Are there *b'lios* of *issur* into the remaining 20% of the barrel?

No, unless the non-kosher item was a *דבר שמן*.

### מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף י'  
שולחן ערוך יו"ד סימן ק"ה סעיף א'  
דרכי תשובה סימן ס"ט ס"ק רצ"ה  
ש"ך יו"ד סימן ק"ה ס"ק ב'  
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