

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

BAG HOUSE

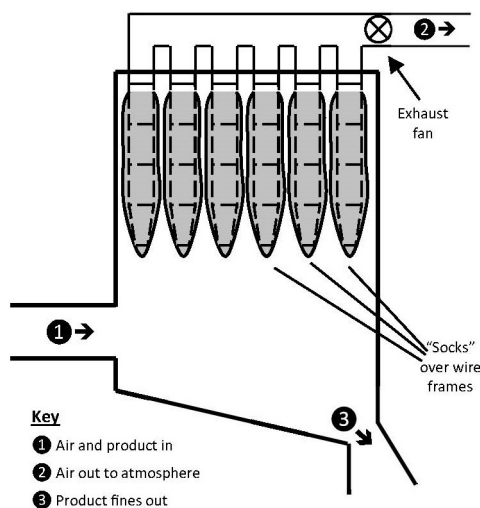
The air which escapes from a spray dryer (or other dryer) often carries small particles, known as "fines". Companies want to remove these from the air before it is released to the atmosphere and one tool to do that is a bag house. If the company recovers the fines and sells them as kosher, the bag house requires *kashering* if it had previously been used for non-kosher.

The bag house consists of dozens of "socks" which are stretched over wire frames which are somewhat in the shape of "legs". Multiple rows of socks cover just about the entire upper surface of the bag house, and they have small holes in them which allow air to pass through but not product. A mixture of air and product is blown into the chamber (1 in the accompanying diagram) and gets sucked through the socks. The socks act as a filter which allows air to pass through (and the air exits at 2) but not the fines (they fall out of the bag house at 3).

The socks can either be made of fabric or of a synthetic material (e.g., Gore-Tex). Many of the synthetic ones can be cleaned in-place with air that pulses through them (from the inside), brushing from the outside, or with a hot steam-cleaning, and they will therefore rarely have to be taken off the wire frames. Generally, this cleaning will not qualify as a *hag'alah*, and alternate methods must be used if the product is hot when it comes in contact with the socks. But the fabric socks are

cleaned by pulling them off the wire frames and (basically) laundering them in a washing machine. As we saw in DK 67, that can qualify as a *kashering*.

However, a complication of *kashering* fabric socks is that it takes a relatively long time to take the bags down from the frames and put them back up. Factory personnel will therefore want to put the socks back onto the frames during the 24-hour downtime required for *hag'alah*. If so, when the frames are *aino ben yomo* they will be covered by the socks and unable to be *kashered*. For this reason, the proper way to *kasher* the bag house is to wait for it to be *aino ben yomo*, *kasher* the chamber and wire frames in place (and the socks in a washing machine), and only then put the socks back onto the frames.



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Abridged from Chapter 45 of *Imrei Dovid, Kashering*, by Rabbi Dovid Cohen
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מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף י"ח



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Kosher Certification

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