

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

COUNTERS

[PART 3 – PERFORMING IRUI]

Irui

As with all *hag'alah*, *irui* cannot be done until the surface is perfectly clean and has not been used for 24 hours. The actual pouring of boiling water has the following requirements:

1. The counter or table should be dry.
2. Water should be brought to a boil in a pot or kettle.

That pot or kettle should be clean and not been used in the past 24 hours. It makes no difference if the pot had previously been used for meat, dairy, non-kosher, or *chametz*.

3. Carefully pour water directly from the pot onto each part of the counter or table.

Some find it easier to direct the water to a specific spot with a kettle than with a pot.

It is common that one pot or kettle full of water will not be enough to *kasher* a full countertop or table.

Steamer

Kashering a counter or table with *irui kli rishon* is somewhat tedious, and can surely be a messy affair, and some people have thought to overcome those challenges by *kashering* these surfaces with a steam

cleaning machine. These are devices which are designed to clean ovens, counters, and many other items by spraying them with a focused blast of steam, and if they can be used for *kashering* it would simplify this task.

However, in practice, most steamers used by consumers are not suited for *kashering*. That is because two of the conditions of *hag'alah* are that it must be performed with [a] liquid water (rather than steam), and [b] the water must be at a boiling temperature. In general, steamers tend to meet just one of these

criteria: if they spray pure steam it may be hot enough ("b") but there will be no water on the surface ("a"), and if the steam is cool enough to condense as water on the counters ("a") then the liquid will not be hot enough to qualify for *kashering* ("b"). This has been borne out through testing of multiple steamers.

Some expensive or industrial steamers are, in fact, capable of spraying hot water which is at boiling temperature, and those are sometimes used by *Mashgichim* when *kashering* food service facilities. But, by and large,

Safety Note

Extreme caution should be exercised when pouring boiling water.

- Water pouring off counters can burn and scald very easily.
- Water spilling onto the floor poses a potential hazard and might lead to someone slipping.

Consider wearing boots, heat-proof gloves, and other personal protective gear.

Children should stay far away from the area where *kashering* is occurring.



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CRC POLICIES

128. A pot was used for *chametz*, but is clean and has not been used in 24 hours. Can water be boiled in it for use in *kashering*?

Yes

129. Should a table or counter be covered for *Pesach*, *kashered* for *Pesach* (assuming it is made of a material that can be *kashered*), or both?

It suffices for a table to be covered. The common custom is to *kasher* and

cover countertops for *Pesach*, and that is the prudent choice. However, the letter of the law is that either *kashering* or covering is sufficient.

130. A counter was used for non-kosher and was subsequently *kashered*. Does that counter have to be covered before it is used for kosher?

No

131. Under what conditions can a steamer be used for *kashering* a counter or table?

It must produce liquid (rather than steam) which is at a boiling temperature.

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"א סעיף כ'
משנה ברורה תנ"א ס"ק נ', ותנ"ב ס"ק כ'