

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

KEILIM WHICH TOUCH

Utensils being *kashered* must have direct contact with the *hag'alah* water and cannot be touching other utensils or a pair of tongs. Accordingly, when one *kashers* flatware (for example), one cannot dump all the pieces in at once because then pieces will be touching one another. Instead, they should be put into the water one at a time, so each is completely surrounded by the *hag'alah* water. [Additionally, after several pieces are *kashered*, the water may cool below boiling, and no more pieces should be *kashered* until the water heats up once again].

But what if one is *kashering* a delicate item which might break if it is dropped into the *hag'alah* water? One suggestion is that it be *kashered* with two sets of tongs. The utensil is lowered into the water while being held with one set of tongs, and then it can be grasped in a different spot using the other set (and the first set of tongs can be removed). In this way, all parts of the utensil will have contact with the boiling water, but the person can always hold onto the utensil.

However, *Mishnah Berurah* cites another suggestion which at first glance appears to be hard to understand. He says that the delicate utensil can be placed into a perforated basket and the person can lower the entire basket into the *hag'alah* water. How is that effective? Why is it not okay to hold the utensil with tongs, but you can place it into a basket?

Presumably the answer is that *Shulchan Aruch* who forbids utensils touching one another is discussing cases where either (a) *ta'am* was absorbed from all sides, such as with flatware, or (b) the utensils were put inside one another (concentrically) such that the outside of the upper utensil touches the inside of the lower one. Thus, in this latter case, the issue is not that the upper utensil will not get *kashered* but rather that the lower one will not be *kashered* since its interior surface is blocked by the upper utensil sitting in it.

Based on this, we can understand why it is permitted to *kasher* a delicate utensil while it sits in a perforated basket, but one cannot grasp the utensil with tongs. Tongs touch the utensil on both the outside and inside, which means that they block *hag'alah* water from accessing the inside of the utensil. Accordingly, they cannot be used. But if the delicate utensil is in a basket, the only part which touches the basket [and is not in contact with the *hag'alah* water] is the outside of the delicate utensil. That part (generally) does not require contact with the *hag'alah* and therefore there is no concern if it is touching something else.

CRC POLICIES

167. May one *kasher* multiple pieces of flatware simultaneously?

One at a time, and the water should be boiling before each piece is put in



168. May one grasp a utensil with tongs during *hag'alah*?

No, unless you loosen (or move) the tongs when the utensil is in the *hag'alah* water so that water reaches all areas

169. Are there any circumstances when one may *kasher* a utensil by placing it into another perforated container (and putting both into the *hag'alah* water)?

If the parts that touch the basket (i.e., the outside of the utensil being *kashered*) never had direct food contact

מראה מקומות

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