

דרך קצרה

Brief summaries of cRc Kashrus Policies

SHA'AR MASHKIM

Rema rules that *l'chatchilah* one may not *kasher* with **שער משקים** – liquids other than water – but *b'dieved* one can be lenient. An obvious case of *b'dieved* is where the utensil was *kashered* with **שער משקים** and kosher food was already made with that utensil. Later *Poskim* provide some other examples of what qualifies as "*b'dieved*".

One is from *Pri Megadim* who says that "*b'dieved*" refers to cases when *hag'alah* with water is no longer possible, such as if the utensil was *kashered* from *chametz* use and now it is *Pesach* when *hag'alah* may not be performed. *Rebbi Akiva Eiger* says that one can also be lenient in cases of true **שעת הדחק** based on the principle that **כל שעת הדחק כדיעבד**. In that context, Rav Schachter said that the desire to have chocolate which is truly *pareve* and can even be eaten with meat does not qualify as a **שעת הדחק** and the chocolate equipment cannot be *kashered* with **שער משקים**. [More on this case below]. Thus, one should be cautious in applying the concept of **שעת הדחק כדיעבד**. From a different angle, *Iggeros Moshe* says that since it is a *chumrah* not to *kasher* with other liquids, in cases where it is not even clear that the equipment was used for non-kosher food at all, one can *kasher* with **שער משקים**.

Some examples of **שער משקים** listed by the *Poskim* include milk, oil, and wine, and at first glance one would assume that any liquid which is not pure water fits into this category, but there are two exceptions, as follows:

Mishnah Berurah says that soapy water is an example of **שער משקים**, since it has soap added to the water, and *l'chatchilah* it should not be used for *kashering*. This means that soapy water should be used as the "*davar hapogem*" when one is trying to avoid the *aino ben yomo* requirement. However, in this context, Rav Belsky and Rav Schachter said that if something is added to the water that renders it *pagum* (making it suitable as a *davar hapogem*) but does not discolor or cloud the water and does not change the "feel" of the water, that liquid remains suitable for *kashering* and is not classified as **שער משקים**. The minor additive does not affect the water's ability to extract *ta'am* during *hag'alah*. An example of this would be if one adds Bitrex to the *hag'alah* water; the water will be *pagum* with just 2-5 parts per million of Bitrex, and that small amount of Bitrex will not affect the water's color etc. Rav Elyashiv added one caveat, that if the additive renders the liquid inedible then the liquid is considered **שער משקים** even if there is no change in its outer appearance.

Iggeros Moshe says that since animal fat is solid at room temperature, it is worse than **שער משקים**. It is not a liquid at all, and if someone performed *hag'alah* with it when it was in liquid form, that *kashering* would not be effective even *b'dieved*. One example where this would apply would be if someone was *kashering* a margarine factory; margarine is solid at room temperature and therefore if hot margarine (which is a liquid) was



used to *kasher* the equipment, the equipment is not considered kosher even *b'dieved*.

Another case where this is relevant is for the *kashering* of machinery used to process chocolate products. Chocolatiers are loathe to allow *kashering* with water, and it was therefore proposed that chocolate or cocoa butter be used instead. Rav Schachter opposed this for two reasons. The simplest is, as noted above, that one may only *kasher* with **שער משקים** when there is a **שעת הדחק**, and he did not consider the need for kosher (pareve) chocolate to qualify. The other more fundamental reason is that chocolate and cocoa butter are solids at room temperature and therefore any "*kashering*" performed with them is completely invalid.

CRC POLICIES

173. Which of the following items are suitable as the media for *hag'alah*?

Item	לכתחלה	בדיעבד
Animal fat	No	No
Chocolate	No	Yes
Cocoa butter	No	Yes
Margarine	No	Yes
Milk	No	Yes
Oil	No	Yes
Soapy water	No	Yes
Water (pure)	Yes	Yes

Item	לכתחלה	בדיעבד
Wine	No	Yes
Water...		
...with 5 ppm of Bitrex	Yes	Yes
...clouded by an additive	No	Yes
...discolored by an additive	No	Yes
...rendered inedible by an additive	Requires further consideration	Yes

174. In this context, do the following situations qualify as "בדיעבד"?

a. Food was cooked in the utensil before anyone realized it had been *kashered* with **שאר משקים**.

Yes

b. It is now *Pesach*, and it is no longer possible to *kasher* with water.

Yes

c. A company wants to produce pareve chocolate and refuses to *kasher* with water.

Yes

175. May one *kasher* with **שאר משקים** if it is unclear whether the equipment was ever even used for non-kosher?

Yes

מראה מקומות

שולחן ערוך סימן תנ"ב סעיף ה'
 פרי מגדים סימן תנ"ב א"א ס"ק י'
 שו"ת רבי עקיבא איגר חלק א' סימן פ"ג
 אגרות משה יו"ד חלק ב' סימן מ"א, יו"ד חלק א' סימן ס'
 משנה ברורה תנ"ב ס"ק כ"ו