



THE HAKHEL COMMUNITY AWARENESS BULLETIN

Reviewed by HaRav Yisroel Belsky, Shlita

Special Edition - Succos 5765

1. **Water Filters.** The following Halacha applies to the use of water for drinking or food preparation purposes from a sink equipped with a filter, both on Shabbos and Yom Tov **equally**:

A water filter on a sink is treated as a *meshameres* (Shabbos - Orach Chayim 319:9,10; Yom Tov - Orach Chayim 510:4). Accordingly, if you would like to drink the water anyway as you feel it is clean, and have the filter on only as a *chumra* or for health reasons, it would be permissible to drink the water on Shabbos or Yom Tov (See Orach Chayim 319, Mishne Berurah seif katon 34). However, if you would not otherwise drink the water, for example, you follow the option that unfiltered New York City water is assur to drink, then the issur of *borer* would apply both on Shabbos (See Orach Chauyim 319, Mishne Berurah seif katon 40) and on Yom Tov (See Orach Chayim 510, Mishne Berurah seif katon 17).

2. **Bathing and Showering.** With what is known colloquially as a “Three-day Yom Tov” arriving twice, over each of Succos and Shemini Atzeres, we provide the following important review:

Bathing and showering of the body in hot or warm water on Yom Tov is prohibited, as it is on Shabbos (Orach Chayim 511:2). This is because neither bathing nor showering the body is considered an “ochel nefesh” activity permitted on Yom Tov (Orach Chayim 511: Mishne Berurah seif katan 10). It is permissible, however, as an “ochel nefesh” activity, to wash the **hands, face or feet** from water heated on Yom Tov (including hot water from the tap) (Mishne Berurah, seif katan 9). If one is in true discomfort, and desires to either: (1) wash a part of his body other than his hands, face or feet with warm water, or (2) wash his entire body with cold water, one must first consult with his Rav, who will advise him as to the circumstances, and the manner, in which these forms of washing may be done.

Note: Although some have advanced arguments, claiming that the Halacha, based upon the Gemorah and Rishonim should be changed because of special circumstances making today’s conditions different, no one in our time has the authority to effect a change in this Halacha, as established by the Poskim of all previous generations.

3. **Watching Your Waste.** We must note that one generally cannot move his garbage cans from the side of the house to the front of the house on Yom Tov for garbage pick-up, because it constitutes hotza’ah on Yom Tov (leaving aside muktzah issues). Similarly, unless one has a p’sak from his Rav that in his case it is permissible, one cannot take the garbage out of his house to the garbage cans on the side of his house on Yom Tov.

4. **Moving Mail.** According to *The Halachos of Muktza* by Rabbi Yisroel Pinchas Bodner Shlita (page 142) “Items which cannot be read are muktza unless such items are also normally used as utensils.... According to all opinions, where the letter is important, and one would not use it as a bookmark, etc. for fear of damage or loss, it is muktza. It is suggested that one should not move mail on Shabbos or Yom Tov. In cases of great necessity, a competent Halachic authority should be consulted.”

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~ Gut Yom Tov ~