

Candle Lighting: Candles Only?

Rav Yosef Jacobovitz

Yitzchak brought Rivka home and saw a special blessing in Rivka's mitzvah of *hadlakas neiros*, similar to his mother, Sarah, in that it was not extinguished from shabos to shabos.

What is the minimum requirement as a fuel?

Shulchan Aruch - all

oils and waxes are permitted; yet, olive oil is preferable based on mesorah.

Mishna Berurah - olive oil is preferable only because it

kindles well. If olive oil isn't readily available, one may use wax candles.

Rav Moshe Feinstein- the clearest flame is the most preferred.

The Steipler Gaon - used wax candles since it lit better or equal to oil.

The Baal HaTurim - Parshas Tetzave- Tetzave is the gematria of *nashim tzavei*- that they too should light with oil.

Rav Shmuel Kamenetzky- based on above, one would need *hataras nedarim* to change their *minhag* from olive oil to candles. However, if one does not have a particular *minhag*, it is not necessary to use specifically olive oil.

When one cannot light [i.e. a hospital]

Electric bulbs: Rav Chaim Ozer Grodzensky- an incandescent bulb is a regular flame.

Rav Henkin agrees.

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach distinguishes between a battery operated device [i.e. a flashlight] where the entire energy source is present and ignited prior to shabos. A wall based ac current has only a small portion of the energy at the point of the outlet.