

Tevilas Keilim: Ritual Immersion on High Tech Items

Rav Yosef Jacobowitz

Min haTorah- only metal needs immersion. *Midrabanan* - even glass [since it's similar to metal that it can be molded into a shape].

There are two components:

1. The mitzvah-One must *toivel* prior to using for eating
2. The *issur*-It is prohibited to use a utensil without prior immersion

What is

the halacha regarding utensils that cannot be immersed? [coffee makers, etc.]

- Some say it is similar to utensils owned in partnership with a non-Jew
- Rama -these items don't require immersion.
- Bais Meir- disagrees.
- Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach - concurs with Rama, since *issur* is only *midrabanan*. When *tvilah* will not remove the *tumah* from the non-Jew's portion, one may use without *tvilah*.
- Since it is plugged in to the wall, it could be possibly considered *mechubar lekarka* , and not obligated in immersion at all.

What is the halacha regarding utensils in a hotel that doesn't *toivel*?

- Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach - permits to use without immersion. Similar to utensils owned jointly with non-Jew, when *tvila* is not an option, [the hotel won't allow you], there is no prohibition of using without *tvila*.
- Rav Moshe Feinstein - disagrees with Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach in hotel scenario. [He only permits eating cold food off the plate, but not the utensils.] It could be he would agree regarding the coffeemaker.