

THE SHABBOS WEEKLY

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Is there a problem preparing instant mash on Shabbos?

The answer depends on the method of preparation of that particular instant mash. If the mash binds upon pouring the water and needs hardly any mixing then one may not prepare such a mash on Shabbos. This is because the *Shulchan Aruch* says¹ that one may not throw flax seeds into water on Shabbos because they bind without further human intervention. If one is required to stir the mash in order to prepare it, since it is a **בליליה עבה** – a thick consistency, and only if it would spoil if prepared before Shabbos, one may then prepare it on Shabbos by stirring it in a crisscross fashion. It is correct to modify the pouring order as well.²

Many people make their own *tehina* solution. Is it permitted on Shabbos as well?

Preparing a *tehina* mixture (ground sesame seeds) on Shabbos is a classical case of a **בליליה עבה** and preparation is prohibited on Shabbos. If one would make it into a liquid solution, one would then modify the pouring order and mix it by either shaking the bowl or in a crisscross manner. However, one may prepare a thick consistency before Shabbos and dilute it with water and other liquids on Shabbos, provided that it was well mixed before Shabbos.³

May one add mayonnaise to tuna fish on Shabbos?

Preparing a tuna fish salad shares the same *halacha* as preparing egg salad on Shabbos. We saw in the previous shiur that many are accustomed to preparing the egg salad on

¹ *Simon* 340:12 and *M"B* 336:51, see the *SS"K* 8:25.

² Based on *M"B* 68.

³ Based on *Bi'ur Halacha* "יכל לערכו".

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Shabbos. There definitely is preference for preparing it before Shabbos but if this is not done,⁴ there is what to rely on for preparation on Shabbos. It is desirable, according to some opinions, to modify the pouring order and mix it in a crisscross motion.

What if someone prepared a mixture contrary to the halacha *b'shogaig* (unwittingly). May it be eaten on Shabbos?

As with all such cases, when it is strictly forbidden and not merely stringency, the person that prepared it and the persons whom it was intended for may not eat it until after Shabbos. The *Vilna Ga'on* holds that they may eat it on Shabbos and the *M"B*⁵ writes that when necessary one may rely on the *Vilna Ga'on*.⁶

If I find an apple under my apple tree on Shabbos, am I permitted to eat it?

First we must understand what problem might be involved with eating an apple that fell off a tree. We know that it is an *issur d'oraissa* (biblical prohibition) to pick a fruit off a tree on Shabbos, but once the apple has fallen off the tree what could be the problem?

The *poskim* tell us that there are two problems. The first problem is that *Chazal* were afraid that if one were permitted to eat the apple that fell off the tree on Shabbos, one might 'forget oneself' and pick another one and violate an *issur d'oraissa*.

⁴ Or has the custom to prepare egg salad on Shabbos.

⁵ *Simon* 318:7.

⁶ One needs to define what 'when necessary' means, because obviously not everything one fancies is called 'when necessary'. It probably means that one needs it for a major portion of one's meal, not that it is one of five other salads at one's table.

The second problem is that the fruit is *muktze*. The reason is that when Shabbos began, it was known that the fruit was on the tree and it is therefore out-of-bounds for Shabbos. When in due course it fell off the tree it remains out-of-bounds, or *muktze*, for want of a halachic term.⁷

If I do not know when it fell off the tree, may I eat it on Shabbos?

The *Yerushalmi*⁸ teaches us that even when in doubt one may not⁹ eat the fruit. Even if the fruit fell off the tree before Shabbos, one may not gather a few together and bring them inside, because of the *issur* of *מעמר*.¹⁰ The maximum a person may do is eat one fruit at a time. [*מעמר* is an *Av Melacha* and it entails the prohibition of collecting items found in the field where they were grown. This *melacha* involves other details which we will be "H discuss in later shiurim].

Am I permitted to fashion a toothpick on Shabbos?

Several details must be taken into account when deciding whether one may fashion a toothpick on Shabbos.

The first pertains to **muktze**. If the piece of wood one wishes to fashion the toothpick from was not prepared for use before Shabbos it is *muktze*. The *halacha* talks about fashioning a toothpick from straw used to feed animals which is not *muktze*.¹¹ Another possibility is to use a matchstick. Although a match is *muktze* on account of it being a *k'li shemelachto l'issur*, nevertheless it may be used *l'tsorech gufo*.

The second pertains to **making a k'li**. *Chazal* tell us that it is permitted to fashion a toothpick from food intended for an animal such as straw, even with a knife.¹² However, if the straw is not animal food, or if one wishes to fashion a matchstick into a toothpick, it

⁷ *Simon* 322:3 and *M" B* 7.

⁸ *Yerushalmi Pesachim*, mentioned in *Tosefos Pesachim* 56b.

⁹ The *Sha'ar Ha'tsiun* 8 explains that it is based on the concept of *בר שיש לו מתיירין* b7. Since the fruit can be eaten *b'heter* after Shabbos, one may not eat it on Shabbos.

¹⁰ *M" B* *simon* 322:6.

¹¹ *Simon* 322:4.

¹² *Simon* 322:4, and see *M" B* 12.

is forbidden to do so. Breaking the matchstick with one's hands is an *issur d'rabanan* and shaping it with a knife or any other instrument is an *issur d'oraissa*.

What if there are pieces of meat stuck between the teeth and it impinges on human dignity?

We find that *Chazal* cared for a person's dignity and waived aside their restrictions in certain circumstances. In such a case, when a person is embarrassed to open his mouth because of pieces of food stuck between his teeth, one would assume that one would be permitted to handle *muktze* in order to clean his teeth. However, the *halacha* is that since one should have known that it is possible that it may be necessary to clean one's teeth on Shabbos, a toothpick should have been prepared before Shabbos. Therefore one may not violate any *issurim*. If however one is invited to a friend and thus he could not have prepared a toothpick before Shabbos and he finds himself in an awkward predicament, as mentioned, he may handle *muktze* to clean his teeth or even break a piece of wood with his hands (not with an instrument) and use it as a toothpick. This is on condition that it is indeed an embarrassing situation.¹³

Orchos Chaim LaRosh

קידם שלום לכל אדם – Be first to greet each person.

Saying shalom to people makes them happy; makes them feel good about themselves. Do not expect people to greet you first and only then reply, be proactive; show others that you care. We often think that by giving honor to others we lose out and it is not so, as *Chazal* teach us *איזהו מכובד*, *המכבד את הבריות* – an honorable person is one who honors others.

¹³ *M" B* *simon* 322:14 and *Sha'ar Ha'tsiun* 12.