

THE SHABBOS WEEKLY

HALACHA SERIES ON HILCHOS SHABBOS

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Is one permitted to cover a newly laid egg on Shabbos? What about placing a plate beneath it to catch it?

There is an often-quoted opinion in the *gemora*¹ that it is forbidden to move a permitted *k'li* for the sake of *muktze*. Accordingly one would not be permitted to cover a newly laid egg (which is *muktze*) on Shabbos. The *halacha* is **not** like this opinion, and therefore one may take a bowl or cup and cover an egg even though the egg is *muktze*.

However, because an egg is oval shaped and will move even when lightly touched, one must be extra careful not to touch the egg with the bowl when covering it.² If, on the other hand, the *muktze* item would not move when touched, it is not imperative that the bowl will not touch it.³ It is forbidden to place a plate beneath an egg that is *muktze* because of the prohibition of *bitul k'li meheichano* – rendering a *k'li* unusable on Shabbos. Since the egg is *muktze* it causes the *k'li* placed beneath it to be *muktze* as well, and one is forbidden to cause a *k'li* to become *muktze* on Shabbos.⁴

Under which muktze-status do you classify a wallet – with money and without?

Let us first define the status of money.

Money is classified as *muktze machmas gufo*,⁵ which places it in the same category as sticks and stones, because it is not called a *k'li*. The rule applying to this category is that it is forbidden to

move it even *l'tzorech gufo um'komo* – for the sake of using the actual coin or to use the space it is occupying.

A wallet/purse is called a *k'li shem'lachto l'issur*⁶ – a *k'li* used for an *issur*, i.e. storing money. Therefore, if the wallet was empty when Shabbos began it has a status of a *k'li shem'lachto l'issur* and may be moved or handled *l'tzorech gufo um'komo*. Accordingly it may be removed from one's trouser pocket in the regular manner. If the wallet contained money when Shabbos began, the wallet attains the identical status as the money due to the *halacha* of being a *basis l'davar ha'assur* – a base, a stand, for the *muktze* and becomes *muktze machmas gufo*.⁷ In such a case it would be forbidden to remove the wallet from one's trouser pocket in the regular manner and it would have to be tipped out.

Boneh

I had yet not removed the storm windows and a heat wave broke out on Shabbos. Am I permitted to remove them on Shabbos?

The *Shulchan Aruch*⁸ teaches us that one is permitted to insert a board or screen into a window, even if the board is not connected or tied to the wall e.g. with a string. The purpose of the string would be to demonstrate that the board is not part of the building, but rather, it functions as a temporary plug and can be removed at random. The *Mishna Berura*⁹ stipulates that this is only applicable when the

¹ See R' Nechemia in *Shabbos* 43a and 124a.

² *M" B simon* 310:22.

³ Ibid. This is the opinion of the *Be'er Hagolah* and the *Vilna Ga'on*, contrary to the *M" A* and the *Taz*.

⁴ *Simon* 310:6.

⁵ *M" B simon* 310:7. See the *SS"K* 20:20 where he says that paper money is *muktze machmas chisaron kis*.

⁶ *Rama* in *simon* 310:7, *M" B* 27. *SS"K* 20:16.

⁷ Rav Sternbuch *Shlita* pointed out that if there are other items (even though they may be *muktze*) of a different status and are more important than the money, the wallet will be a *basis* to them.

⁸ *Simon* 313:1

⁹ *Simon* 313:2.

board is regularly placed and removed from the window. Storm (double) windows are inserted into the window frame with the onset of winter and are removed at the beginning of spring or summer. This undeniably is not called frequent attaching and removal, and would therefore not be permitted on Shabbos.¹⁰ See the footnote. If the windows are attached to the frame with hinges, unscrewing them or unhinging the windows would involve a Biblical prohibition of *Soter* – Dismantling.

As I opened the door to my room I realized that the door handle remained in my hand. Was I permitted to reattach it to the rod protruding from the door?

One of the central distinctions between *Binyan B'keilim* – the assembly of movable articles and *Binyan B'karka* – building construction, is that *Binyan B'karka* is applicable even through loosely attaching items to the building. This is because items attached to a structure become part of it even when loosely attached. Therefore, it is forbidden to reattach the handle to the rod/bar even loosely due to *Boneh*. The handle itself is *muktze*¹¹ and must be put down.

The same would apply to a filter attached to the faucet. If it became loose on Shabbos it is forbidden to tighten it, and if it detached from the faucet it is forbidden to reattach it even though one intends to attach it without force or skill.

As I was leafing through a calendar hanging from the wall, the nail that fastened it to the wall came out. Am I permitted to loosely reinsert it?

Based on the above, inserting a nail into a wall, even loosely, is akin to *Boneh*, and is forbidden. The same applies to a hook which detached itself from wall shelves or from a door. Also, if when closing or opening a curtain the rail partly-

¹⁰ The *Chazon Ish* 46:3 writes that if one is accustomed to position these windows at night and detach them in the morning, one may do so on Shabbos if they are tied with a string. This is because it is irregular to do so, and therefore it must be established that the windows are not part of the structure.

¹¹ *MB simon* 308:35.

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Note: The purpose of this series is intended solely for the clarification of the topics discussed and not to render halachic decisions. It is intended to heighten everyone's awareness of important practical questions which do arise on this topic. One must consult with a proper halachic authority in order to receive *p'sak*.

detached from the wall, it would be strictly forbidden to reinsert the rivet back into the wall.

*I once saw the pin of a door hinge detach itself, and a tall fellow quickly reinserted it. I remarked that he was liable to bring a *chatas* – a sacrifice. He retorted that it was not a problem to reinsert it. Who was correct?*

According to the above, reassembling or attaching anything to the ground or to fixtures attached to the ground is *Boneh*. Therefore, inserting a bolt into the hinge, even if it easily slips into place, would be the *Melacha* of *Boneh*, and the perpetrator of such an act on Shabbos would be obliged to bring a sacrifice.

If his intention was to reinsert it temporarily into the hinge until after Shabbos and remove it in order to repair it, there would be room to say that it would 'only' be an *issur d'rabanan* because it was not permanently attached.

Vort on the Parsha

A person once remarked that these *parshiyos* are "boring". What difference does it make how the *Mishkan* looked and why so much elaboration? It so happened that he had just moved to a new house, so I casually asked him about it. With his arms flying and his entire body taking part, he began to describe in animated and excited motions every detail of the furnishings, the wallpaper, kitchen faucets and chandeliers. I was showing a growing interest, and he continued to describe the new home in vivid colors. That is so beautiful, I replied, I am extremely happy for you, but don't you think that the Torah was exhibiting the same excitement when it portrayed the beauty of *Hashem's* house? You're right, he said, I never looked at it like that, you really opened my eyes. Thank you, he said. Heard from R' Vogel of Nevey Yerushalayim, the *ba'al hama'ase*.

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