

SHABBAT: NON-JEWS (SHABBAT GOY)

Asking Non-Jew To Do Melacha D'Oraita

You may not ask a non-Jew to turn ON a light or turn ON heat, or other d'oraita violations of Shabbat--even for a mitzva or for oneg Shabbat. However, you may ask a non-Jew to do a melacha d'oraita for any of a sick person's needs, even if there is no danger to the person's life.

NOTE You may tell a non-Jew to do melacha, even if it is d'oraita, for a mitzva or oneg Shabbat only if it is bein ha'shmashot (between sunset and dark).

Asking Non-Jew To Do Melacha D'Rabanan

You may directly instruct or ask a non-Jew to do melacha d'rabanan for you on Shabbat, but only:

- To prevent a large financial loss.

NOTE A large loss is subjective to the individual's actual wealth and also to that person's perception of what is a large loss. Consult a rabbi.

- For Shabbat needs.

EXAMPLE You may ask a non-Jew to unlock an electric hotel door or trigger an entrance door on Shabbat, since this is for a Shabbat need and the action is not prohibited d'oraita.

SITUATION A new guest arrives and you need the space on the table occupied by your Shabbat candlesticks.

WHAT TO DO You may not move the candlesticks, but you may ask a non-Jew to do so.

SITUATION You left a non-muktza item that you now need for Shabbat on a tree branch (or a child left one in a tree house!).

WHAT TO DO You may not climb the tree to retrieve the item, but you may ask a non-Jew to retrieve

EXAMPLE it. You may ask a non-Jew to turn on air conditioning.

EXAMPLE You may ask a non-Jew (directly, no need to hint) to turn off a light if it interferes with someone's sleeping.

- To allow doing a mitzva.
- For other pressing (and certainly for life-threatening) needs, such as health, even if the person not sick.

NOTE All of these are d'rabanan cases!

Hinting to a Non-Jew To Do a Melacha

You may hint or imply that you need something done in order to induce a non-Jew to do even a melacha d'oraita that will benefit you, but *only* if you don't need that action.

EXAMPLE Turning off a light; bringing a chair from outside an eruv.

Non-Jews: Melacha Bein HaShmashot

You may tell a non-Jew to do melacha for Oneg Shabbat.