

# TUM'A: REMOVAL: TOVELING: UTENSILS

## INTRODUCTION TO TOVELING: UTENSILS

### Introduction to Tovelung: Utensils

Tevila is the Hebrew word for immersion. You must tovel (immerse in a mikva or other halachically purifying water) new utensils made of metal or other materials that require tevila unless you know that they were:

- Made by a Jew,
- Sold by a Jew, and
- Not owned by a non-Jew in between.

### Tovelung: Utensils: How To Tovel

To tovel a utensil, you may go to any kosher natural mikva (see section on natural mikvas) or to a mikvat keilim (a small mikva for utensils, often attached to the outside of a regular mikva building). To tovel several items, some of which require a blessing and some on which there is doubt whether a blessing is necessary, say the blessing over the item that requires the blessing and have in mind that the blessing will cover all the rest of your items.

Remember to remove all stickers, rust, etc., before you begin. Nail polish remover may help with stubborn stickers. Say the blessing al tevilat keilim and then let the item free fall through the water. Unlike with hagala, during which the item may be immersed in sections, when you tovel a utensil, the entire item must be in contact with the water at the same time, even if only for an instant.

### Tovelung: Utensils: What Gets Toveled?

**NOTE** The main halacha applies to metal utensils that will be used repeatedly.

Say the blessing al tevilat keilim on metal or glass items--including Pyrex, Duralex, and Corelle--that come in contact with food. Items that require tovelung include:

- Bowls
- Cups
- Forks
- Knives
- Pans
- Plates
- Pots
- Spoons
- Storage containers (only if they are brought to the table).

The below chart is copied with permission from the Star-K ([www.star-k.org](http://www.star-k.org)):

<u>Utensil</u>	<u>Tevila</u> <u>Guideline</u>	<u>Utensil</u>	<u>Tevila</u> <u>Guideline</u>
Aluminum Pans, Disposable <i>if intended to be used more than once</i>	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	Meat Tenderizer Hammer, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>
Aluminum Pans, Disposable <i>to be used only once</i>	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	Melamine	No <u>Tevila</u>
<u>Blech</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>	Metal Cutlery	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>

Blender with metal blade on bottom	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Metal w/o Brocha</u> Flour and Sugar Storage Canisters
Bone	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Metal w/o Brocha</u> Pots Coated with Teflon, Enamel or Plastic
Brush, Pastry	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Metal w/o Brocha</u> Spoon Specifically for Medicine
Brush for Grill, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Metal w/o Brocha</u> Turntable, Glass
Can Opener	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Metal w/o Brocha</u> Beaters
Cans, Reusable Empty <i>if opened by a Yehudi</i>	No <u>Tevila</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
China, Bone	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	<u>Keilim with Brocha</u> Vegetable
China, Glazed	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Colander, Metal	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	<u>Keilim w/o Brocha</u> Enamel
Cookie Cutters, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Tavla w/o Brocha</u> Cooling
Cookie Sheets, Metal	<u>Tevila with Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u> Oven
Cork Screw	No <u>Tevila</u>	No <u>Tevila</u> Pins Metal or Wood
Corningware	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	<u>Sandwich with Brocha</u> Maker
Crockpot Ceramic Insert	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u>
Crockpot Glass Lid	<u>Tevila w/o Brocha</u>	No <u>Tevila</u> Racks, Stainless Steel
Crockpot Outside Metal Shell	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Spatula with Brocha</u> Metal
Dish Rack, Metal	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Stoneware w/o Brocha</u>

Dishes, Ceramic	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Non-Tevila</u> , Non-Glazed
Earthenware, Non-Glazed <i>Dull Finish, e.g. Flower Pot</i>	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Non-Tevila</u> Utensils, Glass <i>not brought to the table</i>
George Foreman Grill	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Non-Tevila</u>
Glass <i>(including Pyrex, Duralux &amp; Corelle)</i>	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u> Kettle, Corelle
Grater, Metal <i>used for foods that are ready to eat, eg, apples, onions</i>	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Teaster</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u> which will <i>not break</i>
Grater, Metal <i>used only for foods that need further cooking, eg potatoes</i>	<u>Tevila</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Teaster</u> with <u>Brocha</u> Oven rack & tray <i>only</i>
Hamburger Maker	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Non-Tevila</u> Metal
Hot Air Popcorn Maker, Metal	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Waffle</u> with <u>Brocha</u> Iron
Hot Water Urn, Metal	<u>Tevila</u> with <u>Brocha</u>	<u>Non-Tevila</u> Tray
Knife, Arts & Crafts	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Wood</u> <u>Tevila</u>
Knife Sharpener	No <u>Tevila</u>	<u>Wood</u> w/o <u>Brocha</u> Cask with Metal Straps
Meat Thermometer	No <u>Tevila</u>	

## TOVELING: UTENSILS: PARTS

### Toveling: Utensils: Stickers

Before immersing a food utensil in a mikva, remove anything attached to its surfaces.

**SITUATION** A sticker or something similar is found on a plate or other utensil after tevila.

### WHAT TO DO

- If the sticker is less than half of the surface area and does not bother you by being there, the tevila is valid.
- If the sticker interferes with your use of the utensil or if you just want it removed, it must be removed and the tevila must be repeated.

### **Toveling: Utensils: Electrical Cord or Heater**

A utensil that requires immersion in a mikva should be immersed even if the utensil is connected to an electrical cord or heater, unless by immersing it you will ruin the entire appliance.

### **Toveling: Lid**

You must tovel a cooking-utensil lid bought from a non-Jew before you use the lid.

### **Toveling a Disposable Aluminum Pan**

If a disposable aluminum pan will be used once, tovel it without a blessing. If a disposable aluminum pan will be used more than once, tovel it with a blessing (al tevilat keilim). Even if you will line it with a double layer of foil, still tovel it.

## **TOVELING: UTENSILS: MIXED MATERIALS**

### **Toveling: Mixed Materials**

When toveling a utensil that is partly made of metal (which requires tevila) and partly made of plastic, wood, or another material that does not require tevila, you must dip all parts of the utensil into the mikva, even the parts that would not require tevila on their own.

## **TOVELING: UTENSILS: KASHER OR TOVEL FIRST?**

### **Toveling: Utensils: Kasher or Tovel First?**

If you have a non-kosher food utensil, kasher it before you immerse it in a mikva (tevila).

## **TOVELING: UTENSILS: JEWS AND NON-JEWS**

### **Giving a Toveled Utensil to another Jew**

If you toveled a utensil and gave it to another Jew, the Jew does not have to tovel it again.

### **Giving a Toveled Utensil to a Non-Jew for Repair**

If you give a utensil to a non-Jew for repair or to have a new part added, consult a rabbi.

### **Toveling: Utensils: Borrowing Back Un-Toveled Utensils from Non-Jew**

Do not use utensils bought from a non-Jew or made by non-Jew until you tovel them. Instead, you may give them to a non-Jew and borrow them back, but you may only do this for 24 hours.