

## Answers to Questions from Previous Weeks

1. With regard to opening a medicine that has words on the protective seal, one should open it before Shabbos. However, if one has no choice one may be lenient and open the package, since it is a destructive form of erasing, and one will not be rewriting on that spot. This is not ideal.
2. Must one remove the lettuce from a bag which was ripped open (destructively) on Shabbos? It is better to remove the lettuce from the bag and dispose of the bag.
3. May one use a scissor to open a package on Shabbos? Only if you do not have a knife or if it is very difficult to open with a knife.
4. With regard to opening cereal boxes (with inner bags) on Shabbos, opening the box is the more problematic of the two and one should at least open the box before Shabbos.
5. There is no problem with eating jelly belly candies on Shabbos, even though there are letters on it.
6. With regard to opening the sports bottle, opening the cover (pop-up) piece is problematic, since you are creating a new kind of opening and cover. It would be better to (a) open the bottle by unscrewing it OR (b) pulling off the entire plastic piece and throwing it out (so that you did not create a cover at all).
7. One may use a cheese slicer on Shabbos. With regard to using it to peel vegetables or using an egg slicer to slice tomatoes that is permitted.
8. Insulating bottles by immersing them completely in hot water is forbidden. One may immerse a bottle in hot water, if the entire bottle is not immersed.
9. Broken bone on Shabbos –
  - a. If it is an open break (can see bone) OR a break in thigh or hip bone OR fractured elbow, THAT IS A POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATING SITUATION AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION, since there may be internal bleeding or circulatory problems or an infection. Also, if the patient is lethargic or fainting, then that is extremely urgent and seconds count. One should not delay or ask a non-Jew, but should act as though it is not Shabbos and get the victim medical assistance as quickly as possible.
  - b. If it is a broken arm, leg, finger or toe, then one should:
    - i. Request medical assistance without using a phone or by asking a non-Jew to call.
    - ii. If not, one may use a shinui to phone for medical assistance from a non-Jew (e.g. press buttons with a spoon).
    - iii. In the meantime, one should apply an ice pack and elevate the wound. One may give the victim pain medication.
    - iv. Taking the patient to the hospital, x-rays, anesthesia and setting the fracture should all be done by a non-Jew.
    - v. If the patient can wait till after Shabbos to have the bone set in a cast, she should. If the doctor advises not to wait due to permanent damage to the limb, a non-Jew may apply the cast on Shabbos.
    - vi. If there is any question of a life-threatening risk, all medical intervention is permitted.
10. Smoothing out foods: The Rema rules leniently that it is permitted, but says, “he who is strict shall be blessed,” meaning it is praiseworthy to follow the stringent view that says foods are included in the prohibition of smoothing. Therefore, if one refrains from smoothing egg salad or icing on a cake, it is praiseworthy. (This does not apply to spreading peanut butter, where one has not concern whether it looks smooth or not).
11. Mixing with a knife – is it enough of a shinui? Only for loose mixtures – not for thick mixtures. For thick mixtures, one may only use a criss-cross stroke.