

Notice Regarding the Englewood Keilim Mikvah

In a letter dated March 23, the Englewood Mikvah Association updated the community on all of the safety measures being undertaken at both the women's mikvah and the keilim mikvah. Please be advised, however, that as of March 24, the Englewood Keilim Mikvah is closed until further notice. The decision to close the keilim mikvah was based on the following concerns:

- The keilim mikvah is located in a small, enclosed space, making the necessary social distancing more difficult.
- The keilim mikvah is not staffed during hours of operation and cannot sufficiently be monitored to turn away people who shouldn't be using it and to ensure crowds do not congregate. By contrast, our women's mikvah is under constant supervision. Anyone who uses it is appropriately screened before entering, and guided by the mikvah staff from afar, safely and responsibly.
- Unlike the women's mikvah, the keilim mikvah water is not treated.
- Unlike the women's mikvah, the keilim mikvah and all accompanying surfaces cannot be cleaned and disinfected in between users.

In light of this new development, two preliminary notes:

First, the [Teaneck Keilim Mikvah](#) continues to remain open, and can be accessed by appointment only. Their water is treated and the mikvah cleaned every hour.

Second, we urge the use of disposable keilim for this year wherever possible. Aluminum tins, plastic dishes and cutlery, and the like do not need toveling, and should suffice given the circumstances.

A Halachic Solution

Even with these alternative options of going elsewhere or using disposable keilim, these developments pose a challenge to many of us who have already purchased new pots, pans and utensils for Pesach, especially those who are making Pesach at home for the first time, who are either home-bound and cannot venture out or are otherwise unable to go elsewhere. Therefore, it is recommended that those who would otherwise use the Englewood keilim mikvah for new utensils avail themselves of the following halachic solution.

The immersion of utensils is only required if those utensils are owned by a Jew. The Beth Din of America created a form to allow individuals who are not able to use a keilim mikvah during the COVID-19 pandemic to sell keilim to a non-Jew and borrow them back to use for themselves. Since keilim owned by a non-Jew do not require immersion in a mikvah, this process allows for the use of the keilim without immersing them.

[Click here for the online form](#) and be sure to read the instructions carefully before filling it out.

As always, please contact us for any questions.

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