The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן תנ"א סעיף י"ח

Overview

Siman 451 Seif 19:

In the opinion of some, hagalah is ineffective for the shovel called פאל"ה and a new one must be purchased.

- This is the shovel used to put cakes into and remove from the oven. (M.B. 109)
- It absorbs chometz by fire without liquid and burning out the chometz will not be effective since it is made of wood. Elya Rabba maintains that b'dieved if one used the shovel after hagalah the food is permitted. (M.B. 110)
- If the shovel was washed and all that remains is absorbed taste it only prohibits a peelable layer but that taste will become reawakened upon the onset of Pesach. According to some since it prohibits only because of its absorbed taste it does not reawaken on Pesach. This applies if it was used for actual chometz but if the shovel was used to remove matzos that were doubled over or swollen it should not be used l'chatchila but b'dieved does not prohibit the food. If one is uncertain whether he used a new or used shovel for matzos they are permitted. (M.B. 111)
- If one retains the shovel from one year to the next it is permitted and hagalah is not necessary. One should merely assure that it is clean. (M.B. 112)

Siman 451 Seif 20:

Regarding tables and cupboards used to store food during the year, the custom is to pour boiling water on them since there are times that soup from a pot pours on them.

- Regular cupboards may be used. (M.B. 113)
- The soup is poured from a kli rishon. Mahari Weil asserts that irui is insufficient since hot solid foods are sometimes placed on the cupboard shelf. It should be kashered with a burning stone upon which boiling water is poured and then the stone is rolled to another spot and more water is poured on it. It is then permitted to even place hot matzah there. B'dieved it is permitted even if just irui was done. (M.B. 114)
- Some authorities write that one must also use another cloth or something that will cover the surface out of concern that some chometz still adheres to the surface. Elya Rabba writes that this is proper for cupboards and closets since it is almost impossible to clean out the area between the glued pieces but there is no reason to be stringent regarding plain tables. (M.B. 115)

Halacha Highlight

Shelves and countertops

Shulchan Aruch Siman 451 Seif 20

השלחנות והתבות

Tables and cupboards

Shulchan Aruch (סע' כ') writes that the custom is to pour boiling water on tables and cupboards used to store chometz during the year, since there are times that soup spills on them. Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק קי"ד) cites authorities who maintain that pouring boiling water is insufficient. Rather, one must heat up a stone and place it on the table, and pour boiling water over it and then move the stone to another location and pour more water again until the stone and the water came in contact with the entire surface. He also cites authorities who maintain that one should also cover the surface with a cloth or something out of concern that there may still be some pieces that adhere to the surface. Elya Rabba contends that this is necessary only when the surface is made from different pieces glued together but if the surface is made from a single piece of wood there is no concern if the surface was properly cleaned (מ"ב ס"ק קט"ו).

Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק קי"ג) writes that Shulchan Aruch's concern applies only when one stores hot food directly on the surface of the table or in the cupboard, but regular cupboards need not be koshered. Accordingly, Teshuvas Or L'Tzion (ח"ג פ"י תשובה י') and Rav Yosef Sholom Elyashiv (אשרי האיש ח"ג פנ"ג אות ל"ג) rule that it is sufficient for one to clean the shelves of the refrigerator well, with a cloth and preferably some cleanser and that is sufficient. Special attention should be given to edges where chometz could collect. Similarly, Rav Elyashiv rules that it is sufficient to clean the shelves in one's kitchen cabinets well and it is unnecessary to cover them. The only reason people cover them is that Pesach dishes are commonly stored there. Regarding kitchen countertops, Rav Nissim Karelitz (חוט השני פסחי פ"י ס"ק י"ז) rules that if one places a thick covering or even a few layers of tinfoil so that the absorbed taste cannot escape it is sufficient and one need not kasher that surface.