

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW MEZUZAH!

Here are some of the basic laws pertaining to affixing a Mezuzah.

If you have any specific questions, please consult your local Rabbi.

1. Mezuzot are necessary for all of the doorways or entranceways of each room, whether for the home or business, either owned or rented. An entranceway is defined as having the shape of a doorframe on the right side as you enter and a lintel overhead. Rooms having an entrance made of walls leading straight up to the ceiling are exempt from Mezuzah. (See Fig. B)
2. The entrance to a hallway that leads to a room requires a Mezuzah even if the hall is less than minimum size. Other rooms which require Mezuzot may include attics, balconies, basements, garages, laundry rooms, storage or utility rooms, walk-in closets, etc. Do not put a Mezuzah on a bathroom.
3. Once a Mezuzah is put up, it must remain up! Even if the occupants move to another dwelling, they must leave the Mezuzot on the doorways unless they know that the new residents are non-Jews. Outside of Israel, unless you are in an exclusively Jewish area, if you do not know who the next occupier of the dwelling will be, you may remove the Mezuzot.
4. The Mezuzah is rolled with care from the left side to the right side so that the letters **ש-ד-ו** show on the outside, then wrapped in wax paper to provide maximum protection against moisture. Do not use plastic film or cling-wrap which can damage the scroll. The wrapped Mezuzah is placed in its case with the letters **ש-ד-ו** at the top facing outward, as in Fig. A.
5. The Mezuzah case should be affixed to the doorpost on the right side as you enter the room. It should be on the first or most exterior part of the passageway and not in the middle or even on the wooden part of the frame if the door frame is located inside the passageway. The Mezuzah should be placed on the lowest part of the upper third of the doorway with the top of the Mezuzah at least 4 inches from the lintel. The Ashkenazic custom is to position the Mezuzah on an angle with the top slanted inward toward the room as in Fig. B. The Sefardic custom is to position it upright.
6. The Mezuzah must be affixed firmly! In circumstances where you cannot use screws or nails, use a permanent bond glue, epoxy or silicone. Most Rabbinical authorities permit the use of double-sided mounting tape. Usage of "Scotch" or "cello tape" is generally not permitted. Consult your Rabbi concerning the use of "Bluetak" tape.
7. A Bracha is said when affixing a Mezuzah on a doorway, but only if the doorway has a door, is in a residence, and leads to a room of a minimum size of 8' by 8'. No Bracha is said when affixing a Mezuzah on a doorway that does not meet these 3 criteria, even though all such doorways require a Mezuzah.
8. One Bracha is sufficient when putting up many Mezuzot at one time. In such cases it is preferable to make the Bracha when putting up the Mezuzah on the main entrance.
9. One should not talk from the time the Bracha is made until the last Mezuzah is firmly affixed.
10. If you take down a Mezuzah and put it back up on the same day it was removed no Bracha is made, unless the Mezuzah was found to be not Kosher and was repaired or replaced with a new Mezuzah.

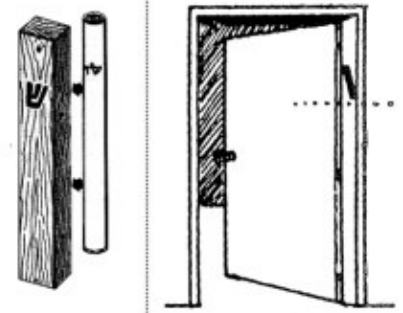


Fig. A

Fig. B

Before affixing the Mezuzah, make the following Bracha:

ברוך אתה ד' א-לוקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו לקבוע מזוזה.

Sefardic transliteration: "Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam asher kideshanu b'-mitzvotav ve-tzivanu likboah mezuzah."

Ashkenazi transliteration: "Boruch ato adonoi eloheinu melech ho-olam asher kideshanu b'-mitzvosov ve-tzivonu likboah mezuzah."

Translation: Blessed are You, G-d, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His Mitzvot, and commanded us to affix the Mezuzah.

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