

# HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #35



# MUKTZA

We said that there is a kind of *muktza* that is not as strict, and there are certain ways we CAN use it on Shabbos. This kind of *muktza* is sometimes called “*Muktza Kal*.”

Even though these things are still *muktza*, not something we regularly use on Shabbos, there are some times we are able to move them: *Letzorech Gufo* (if we need to use it for something we are allowed to do on Shabbos), or *Letzorech Mekomo* (if we need the space where it is).

One type of *muktza* we can move for these reasons on Shabbos is called a “*Keili Shemelachto Le’isur*” — something that is usually used to do a *melacha* that we are not allowed to do on Shabbos. For example, a pen or a pair of scissors are both a *Keili Shemelachto Le’isur*. They are usually used for writing and cutting things to a certain size — the *melachos* of *koseiv* (writing) and *mechateich* (cutting to size).

On Shabbos we are not allowed to pick up a pen or scissors to put them back in the drawer where they belong, since they are *muktza*.

But if there is a pen on the couch, we are allowed to move it out of the way (*Letzoreich Mekomo*). And if there is a bag of food that needs to be opened on Shabbos, and we don’t have a better way to open it, we are allowed to use scissors to cut open the bag (*Letzorech Gufo*).

*See the Alter Rebbe’s Shulchan Aruch, siman Shin-Ches*



# MUKTZA

Things that aren't meant to be used on Shabbos are *muktza*.

There are different reasons why something isn't meant to be used. If we don't expect to use something on Shabbos because it is something important or expensive that we are very careful with, it is called *Muktza Machmas Chesron Kis*.

For example, a wrapped wedding present is this kind of *muktza*. You are planning on giving it to someone as a gift, so you are careful not to ruin it!

Another example is a *Shochet's* knife. A *shochet* spends a lot of time making sure his knife is very very sharp, and he wouldn't use it for anything else! (*Shechting* is *asur* on Shabbos.)

Another example of *Muktza Machmas Chesron Kis* is a birth certificate. It is a very important piece of paper that people are very careful with.

This type of *muktza* is *Muktza Chamur*, a strict kind of *muktza*. We are not allowed to move these things on Shabbos, even if we want to use them for something we ARE allowed to do, or if they are in a space we wanted to use.

*See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, siman Shin-Ches*



# TILTUL MUKTZA

Even though we can't move *muktza*, it is not *asur* to touch it if it is something that usually doesn't move.

For example, a car is definitely *muktza*. But it won't move just by touching it, because it is so heavy. So it isn't a problem to touch it on Shabbos.



# MUKTZA

On Shabbos, we are not allowed to move things that are *muktza*.

The *Chachomim* explain that this is talking about moving things in a normal way, with our hands. But moving something in an unusual way is called *Tiltul Kil'achar Yad*, which IS *mutar*. For example, we are allowed to push away *muktza* with the back of our hand, move it by kicking it out of the way, pushing with our elbow, head, or stomach, or pulling with our mouth.

See the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, *siman Shin-Ches*



## PICKING UP MUKTZA BY MISTAKE

What happens if you pick something up on Shabbos, and then realize that it is *muktza*? What should you do? Should you drop it right away, or can you put it back down where it belongs?

The *halacha* depends on what kind of *muktza* it is!

If it is the kind of *muktza* called *Muktza Kal*, the less strict kind of *muktza*, you can put it down where it belongs. So for example, if you picked up a pen by mistake, you can put it away in its proper place.

But if it is the strict kind of *muktza*, *Muktza Chamur*, you need to drop it right away! So for example, if you reach into your pocket and pull out a piece of paper, and realize it is a dollar bill, you have to drop it right away! If you need it to go into a safe place, you need to kick it or blow it away. (Of course, we should check our pockets before Shabbos so this doesn't happen!)

*See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch, siman Shin-Ches se'if yud-gimmel*

