

Comparison in writing of Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzah

Ref: *Sefer Ahavah, Hilchot Tefillin, Mezuzah VeSefer Torah, Chapter 1*

Gvil – This consists of whole animal skin, with hair removed, and preparations (salt, flour, resins etc.) In this *state* it is still quite coarse.

Klaf – After hair removed, hide split into two. The thinner one is on side where hair grew and is called *klaf*. It is processed in same way as *gvil*.

Duchsustos – The thicker of two pieces of hide after splitting i.e. the one nearer to the flesh, is called *duchsustos*. Processed in same ways as above.

General rules for the writing of *tefillin*, *mezuzot* and *Torah* i.e. who may write, importance of attention, focus, and factors affecting shape of letters. These determine whether the scroll will be acceptable or not.

	Torah	Tefillin	Mezuzah	Explanation
Contents		4 <i>parshiot</i>	2 <i>parshiot</i>	
Even one nekudah (point) missing	×	×	×	Causes it to be unacceptable
 <i>Mosheh Misinai</i>				
Black ink				Same composition for each
Ink any colour other than black	×	×	×	
Parchment				3 types – <i>gvil</i> (coarse) <i>klaf</i> (side of hairs) <i>duchsustos</i> (side of flesh)
Written on <i>gvil</i> on side of hair	✓			Torah – <i>klaf</i> also acceptable but <i>duchsustos</i> not
Written on <i>klaf</i> on side of flesh		✓		
Written on <i>duchsustos</i> on side of hair			✓	<i>Mezuzah</i> acceptable of <i>klaf</i> or <i>gvil</i> as well
Written on <i>klaf</i> on side of hairs, <i>gvil</i> on side of flesh, <i>duchsustos</i> on side of flesh	×	×	×	
Written on hides of non-kosher animals (domesticated and wild) and birds	×	×	×	
Written on kosher animals (domesticated and wild) and kosher birds (even when not ritually slaughtered)	✓	✓	✓	
Written on skin of fish	×	×	×	Due to bad odour
Intention needed when processing <i>gvil</i> or <i>klaf</i>	✓	✓	×	A <i>mezuzah</i> parchment can be made without intention for use
Parchment must be lined	✓	×	✓	

Copying from existing text	✓	✗	✗	i.e. cannot write even 1 letter of Torah by heart
Writing scroll without Holy intention				Only needs to state intention before starting to write
Writes Hashems name without intention	✗	✗	✗	Not allowed to interrupt writing of Hashems name
Inserts missing word between lines	✓	✗	✗	Torah does not have to be written in order
Turns parchment over face down	✗	✗	✗	Should rather cover the parchment
Hebrew in Assyrian script	✓	✓	✓	
Each letter must be fully separated by parchment	✓	✓	✓	
Child must be able to correctly identify every letter	✓	✓	✓	I.e. letters cannot be distorted