

Deception

Ref: *Sefer Nezikin, Hilchot Mechirah, Chapters 18–19*

Movable property

Forbidden to deceive all people (including Gentiles).

Applies equally with words (i.e. false flattery).

One may not beautify an old object to make it deceptively looking like new.

One may not make mixtures e.g. add water to wine etc unless there are established customs.

Allowed measures of impurity when selling produce:

Reminder:

Pack on Weights and Measures



1 ½ *log* of oil dregs per 100 *log* of oil

¼ *kav* of legumes mixed into 1 *seah* of wheat (1 *kav* = ⅙ *seah*)

¼ *kav* of dried kernels to 1 *seah* of barley

¼ *kav* of pebbles to 1 *seah* of lentils

Ten wormy figs per 100

¼ *kav* of dirty produce per *seah* (produce in general)

10 barrels out of 100 can be of inferior quality (But even the 10 should not leak.)

Same measure applies to barrels of wine. If the amount exceeds above measures, then seller has to sift the entire batch and give purchaser 100% pure. The law may vary in different places according to local custom.

Landed property.

When selling landed property, the seller has to inform the purchaser if there is a risk that the courts can expropriate this property. (This applies also to movable property.)

Reminder:

Pack on Expropriation of Property



If this happens and purchaser has not yet made use of the property, he can retract fully.

If he has already made use of the property, he cannot retract and it is he who has to enter into litigation with the claimants from the court, and the seller.

But basically, the seller would always be responsible in such a situation. i.e. he would have to refund the buyer if he lost the property in a Jewish court (but not a Gentile court).