

Definition of Courtyards

Ref: Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Shabbat, Chapter 17

Mavoy (Alleys), *Chatzerot* (courtyards), *Borot* (wells), Exedra

In previous times, houses would open into courtyard, and the courtyards would be connected by lanes to the public domain.

Their status therefore needs to be defined regarding carrying on *Shabbat*.

Reminder:

Pack on Courtyards



A *mavoy* (lane)

There are **2** types of Lanes

- Closed lane (cul de sac) – **3** walls
- Open lane – **2** walls opposite each other

To make a closed lane into a private domain, one must create a 'fourth side' this is done by placing a pole against the wall at the entrance (*lechi*), or a beam running across from one side to the other at the entrance (*korah*).

 *Rabanim* allowed one to carry in a closed lane if a pole or beam was set up at entrance.

To allow carrying within an open lane, one must erect a frame for entrance on one side, and either a pole or beam on the other side.

For carrying to be allowed in a lane with a pole or beam, other conditions need to be met.

- Several houses and courtyards open onto it
- It is **4 amot** or more long
- Length exceeds width

If these conditions are not met, one would have to increase the demarcations as follows

- Erect **2** poles, one at either side or
- A barrier on one side which is **4 tefach** wide (this is considered as a wall)

Chatzer (Courtyard)

With a lane, the length exceeds the width.

In a *chatzer*, the length equals the width.

 Allowed to carry in *chatzer* if 2 poles placed at entrance or a barrier of four *tefachim* wide at one side.

Korah (beam) is minimum **1 tefach** wide and sturdy enough to hold a small brick of 3×3 *tefachim* i.e. thickness must be strong enough.

Unless the lane has a doorframe, the *lechi* (pole) would have to have a minimum height of **10 tefachim** (there is no requirement for width) and the size of entrance to the lane would have to be – **10 tefach** to **20 amot** high, and width not more than **10 amot**.

If its height is more than **20 amot**, the beam would not be noticed by people. If some factor allowed the beam to be recognised, then it could be higher than **20 amot**.

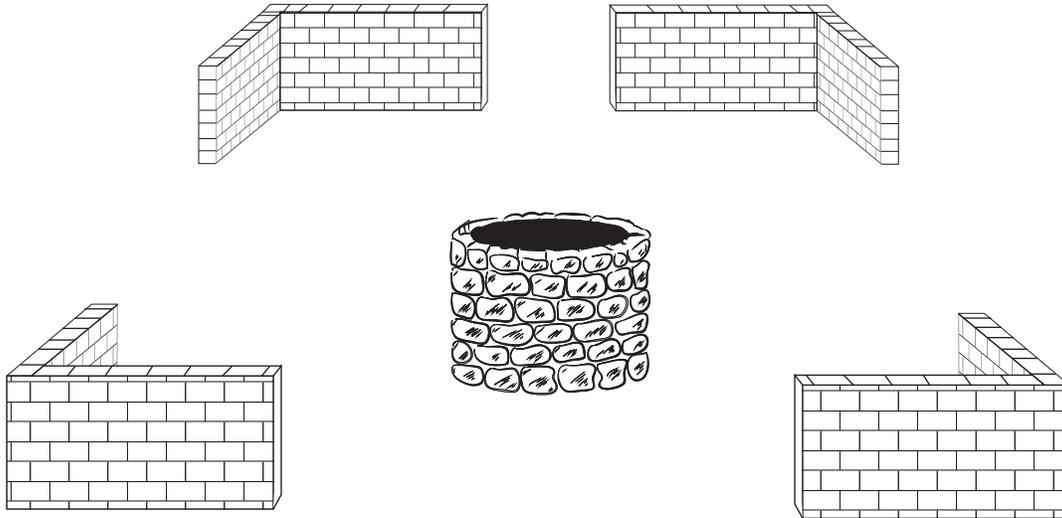
Regarding width, the definition of an entrance is that it cannot be wider than 10 *amot*. If entrance is wider one could make a partition.

Beer (well)

A well in *Eretz Yisrael* –must have a wall constructed around it to allow people and animals to drink on *Shabbat*.

To allow animals to enter and leave, there needs to be large gaps in the wall, which may exceed the width of the wall. However, this is only allowed if there are **2** walls at each corner.

If one puts **2** walls at each corner, then the gap between each corner cannot be more than **13 $\frac{1}{3}$ *amah*** (i.e. the space of **8** cattle – **4** entering and **4** leaving)



The dimensions of these walls should be **10 *tefach*** high and **6 *tefach*** wide (normally **4 *tefach*** is adequate but here the measure is increased because of the large spaces needed for animals).

One can shift these walls further away from the well but the spaces between the walls should never exceed **13 $\frac{1}{3}$ *amah***. The whole enclosure is now a private domain and one can therefore draw water from the well (a private domain) into a private domain and drink.

Exedra

Has **3** walls and a roof.

Here the edge of the roof gives demarcation to the fourth side and one is allowed to carry within. (i.e. no pole or beam is needed.)