

## Eruv Chatzerot (Joining of Courtyards)

**Ref: Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Eruvin, Chapters 1 and 5**

According to Torah, when there are several sharing a *chatzer* (courtyard) from their private homes, the entire courtyard is considered connected to the homes and regarded as a private domain. Therefore, all the neighbours are permitted to carry from their homes to the courtyard and in the courtyard itself.

Similarly with a *mavoy* (lane) which has been demarcated halachically (with an upright pole and cross-beam at its entrance). The lane is then regarded as a private domain on *Shabbat*.

Similarly in a city surrounded by a wall at least **10 tefach** high, and has gates that are locked. The city is then regarded as a private domain throughout on *Shabbat*.

However, the *Rabanan* (in this case *Shlomo Hamelech* and his court) introduced restrictions to safeguard and prevent people carrying on *Shabbat* as follows.



Whenever there are a group of private dwellings and they are jointly connected to a common additional area (e.g. a *chatzer* with houses opening onto it), then the jointly owned area is considered a public domain. It is forbidden to carry between house and courtyard and within the courtyard, unless a special arrangement called an *eruv* is set up i.e. all the individuals join by owning a common food, as one, before *Shabbat*. The food joins the whole party together as one domain.

All understand that a special procedure has taken place which now allows them to carry freely from say house to courtyard or within courtyard on *Shabbat*.

### TERMINOLOGIES

- *Eruvei Chatzerot* (courtyards) – Food used is a whole loaf of bread
- *Shituf* – (lanes [*mavoy*] and cities) – Food used is bread or other foods

### Reminder:

Pack on Courtyards



Measure of food needed for an *eruv* is **1** whole loaf of bread of any size.

For a *shituf* of up to 18 members, each member must provide a food of size **1 grogeret (fig)**.

Minimum measures for *shituf* of more than 18 members is amount of **2 meals = 18 grogeret = 6 medium eggs**. **2 meals** can also be made of side dishes as follows: i.e. the amount of side dishes eaten at **2 meals**

- Wine **2 reviit**
- Beer **2 reviit**
- **2 eggs**
- **2 pomegranates**
- **1 etrog**
- **5 nuts**
- **5 peaches**

- 1 *Roman* pound vegetables
- 1 *uchla* of spices
- *Kav* of dates
- *Kav* of dried figs
- 1 *maneh* of crushed figs
- 1 *kav* of apples
- 1 handful of *cusmita*
- 1 handful of fresh beans
- 1 *litra* edible lichens

### Reminder

Pack on Weights and Measures



#### PROCEDURE

- Collect food from each participant and place in a single container (However, a person may establish an *eruv* on behalf of others, because it is for their benefit)
- Then says a *brachah*
- Food placed in one of the houses or in the case of a *shituf* it could also be placed in one of the courtyards and in other places not allowed for an *eruv chatzer*. The house where food is placed does not have to contribute.
- The collection of foods should stay together and not be divided out.
- Food must be edible and accessible before *Shabbat* (an extension of time is given till end of *ben hashmashot*) if for some reason the food became inedible, inaccessible or lost, then the *eruv* no longer applies and one may not carry.
- Once *eruv* effective before *Shabbat*, it continues to be effective the whole *Shabbat*, even if something occurs to the food on *Shabbat*.

#### SHITUF - LANES AND CITIES

Similar set up exists for Lanes and Cities.

For both lanes and cities, both an *eruv* and a *shituf* should be set up i.e. an *eruv* in the courtyard, and then a *shituf* between courtyards and lane or between courtyards and city. This is so that the children will be able to see their local *eruv* and remind them about the restrictions of carrying on *Shabbat*.

The food used for a *shituf* does not have to be bread alone as with an *eruv*. It also must be stored in a single container and the food should be accessible for all.

For a city, as with a lane, all the courtyards set up an *eruv* and then a *shituf* is set up with the city as with a lane.

The principle of *eruvim* is that separate people become linked through food.

- A single household who all eat at one table do not need an *eruv*.