

Ohel (Tent) Impurity

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Met, Chapters 12, 13, 14, 17*

Reminder

Pack on Impurity of Tent



DIMENSIONS OF *OHEL*

Reminder

Pack on Weights and Measures



A covering to a corpse, if it is the correct measurements, brings impurity to the area it contains, and blocks in the impurity to that area. I.e. vessels within the tent would become impure, but if placed above the tent, they would remain pure.

SQUARE TENT

Minimum measure of tent is **1x1x1 tefach** (Height means 1 tefach above corpse).

If the tent was smaller than this, the vessels next to the corpse remain pure and any vessels placed over the tent would become impure.

Oversized vessels (greater than **40 seah**) would be considered as *ohel* rather than an implement.

A human being or smaller implement are an *ohel*. They are different in that they convey the impurity but do not screen from it.

Wooden coffins are not considered as a grave.



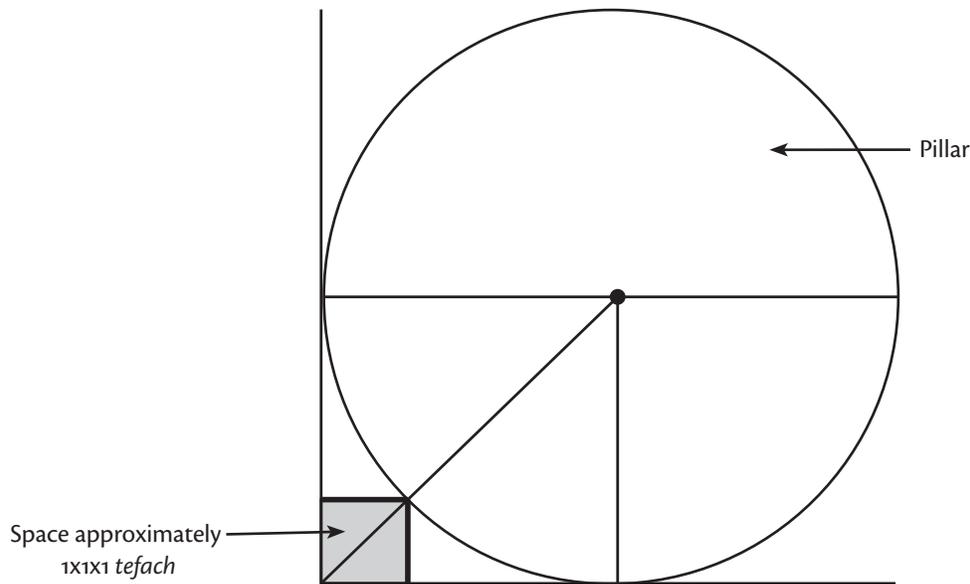
Derabanan however included it to convey impurity when stood on because some coffins may not have **1 tefach** above the corpse.

ROUND

A round beam, to have the correct measure of an *ohel* must have a circumference of **3 tefach** (because circumference = diameter x π (22/7). Therefore diameter would be about **1 tefach**).

A barrel, to be an *ohel* would have to have a circumference of about **4 ½ tefach** (i.e. diameter would be about **1.5 tefach**).

A solid round pillar would have to be **24 tefach** in circumference. Then diameter would be about **8 tefach**, which would result in a space underneath the pillar of about **1x1x1 tefach**.



Structure of tent.

It depends on sturdiness of tent and the type of material.

Tent does not have to be made by a human. It could be natural e.g. cavern or branches of tree hanging over earth.

However it does need to be sturdy.

If it is sturdy it conveys impurity according to Scriptural Law and it also screens from it.

📖 | If not, then impurity is *Derabanan* i.e. the *ohel* conveys impurity but does not screen from it.

Also depends on type of material of the *ohel*.

Some items give passage to impurity and act as a screen against it.

Some items give passage to impurity and do not act as a screen against it.

Some items neither give passage nor act as a screen.

Some items act as a screen but do not give passage

🔔 Reminder

A sturdy 'tent' with correct dimensions imparts impurity to its surrounding (gives passage) but also screens i.e. article above tent remains pure.

If there is not **1 tefach** between corpse and tent, (*retzutzah*) then impurity pierces through tent, and objects above tent become impure (i.e. does not screen)



Examples:

Convey and screen

- Large wooden vessels greater than **40 seah**
- Curtains made like tents

Includes branches of tree, balcony extending from wall, stone vessels, leather vessels.

Vegetables that grow through summer and winter are considered as trees.

Convey but don't screen.

- Smaller wooden vessels
- Curtains not made like tent (Extend outward but do not have walls or slope.)
- Includes human being, simple earthen vessels, impure foods

Do not convey nor screen

- Mound of hail, snow or salt (they dissolve easily)
- A ship that floats on water (unanchored)
- Includes seeds (can be eaten), vegetables – these coverings do not last.

Do not convey but screen

- Lattice work of cords where there are empty spaces. (But if space greater than **1x1 tefach**, it would allow the impurity through)

Includes cross chards of a bed, lattice work of windows.

Reminder

Pack Impurity of Vessels



Windows (openings) in *ohel*.

Reminder

Pack in Windows and Ledges



For impurity to enter or leave *ohel*, it needs a certain minimum size. This size depends on the function of the window.

Chalon tashmish. (Window for functional purpose). Minimum measure is **1x1 tefach**.

Arubah (Window for light). Minimum measure is size of **1 pundion**. (An Italian coin the weight of **8 barleycorn**.)

Unintentional creation of window. Minimum measure is **1 egrof** (size of head of ordinary man)

Ziz (a projection from a wall)

Reminder

Pack on Windows and Ledges



A *ziz* is a projection which protrudes.

- *Ziz* at entrance to a home
 - Projects from entrance and its end faces downwards.
 - Projects from entrance and its end faces upward.
- *Ziz* on a window
 - *chalon tashmish* (window for function)
 - *arubah* (window for light)

ZIZ AT ENTRANCE



Derabanan, it conveys impurity if less than **12 tefach** from ground and faces downward even less than a *tefach*.

The protrusion can be any width (even less than a *tefach*).

(*Deoraita* an *ohel* must be at least **1 tefach**.)

If it is higher than **12 tefach** or facing upwards, it can only be an *ohel* if its size is greater than **1 x 1 tefach**.

ZIZ PROTRUDING ABOVE A CHALON TASHMISH



Derabanan, it conveys impurity even if it protrudes an *etzba*, as long as it isn't more than 2 *etzba* above window. If it is more than 2 *etzba* above window it does not convey impurity unless it is **1 tefach** wide.

ZIZ AT ARUBAH

There are no size or distance restriction on this window (i.e. height above window or size of projection) because minimum size of window is very small (**1 pundion**).

Basically, an acceptable size projection over a space where impurity can escape, extends the house i.e. if an impurity was under the projection, it could cause whole house to become impure and vice versa an impurity in house can cause impurity under the projection.

Complications when there are.

- 2 *zizim* one on top of each other
- Tablets of stone or wood acting as an *ohel*
- Earthenware jugs on top of impurity or impurity within jug.