

Ovens and Cookers Impurity

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Kelim, Chapter 15*

In the past, ovens and cookers were made from earthenware.

At what stage do earthenware containers become susceptible to impurity:

- Earthenware container – when fired in *kiln*
- *Tanur* (oven) – When heated to bake doughnuts, for first time. Minimum size: **4 tefach** for large oven and **1 tefach** for small.
- *Kirah* (range with **2** openings) – When heated to fry egg. Minimum size **3 etzba**
- *Kupach* (range with **1** opening)
 - made for baking same as *tanur*
 - made for cooking same as *kirah*

Baking needs more heat than cooking. The oven (*tanur*) is used for baking, the *kirah* for cooking, and the *kupach* for both.

Even if an oven is heated by accident, and from the outside, it still becomes susceptible to impurity.

However, if used for something which requires very little heat e.g. whitening flax, it remains pure.

A stone oven is not susceptible, but if it is lined with clay on its inside and outside, it is considered as an earthenware vessel in all contexts.

A furnace, i.e. an oven made of bricks, is not susceptible to impurity.

A metal oven is also pure in relation to laws of earthenware ones, but the laws of a metal vessel in general, apply to it.

- i.e. They do not become impure from impurity in inner space.
- Do not become impure when attached to earth (whereas an earthenware one does).
- Becomes impure when touched by an impurity inside or outside.
- If touched by human corpse, they themselves become an *av hatumah*.
- Can regain purity by immersion in a *mikveh*.