

Halachos of Daily Living

I'm going on a trip and I don't have a proper *netilas yadayim* cup.

Can I use a disposable cup?(

The *halacha* requires that one use a *keli* (vessel) for *netilas yadayim*. *Poskim* differ as to

whether a disposable cup (such as a paper cup, or plastic bottle) is acceptable. Igros Moshe (OC 4:39) ruled that one should *not* use a disposable cup

for *kiddush* because *kiddush* requires that the cup have *chashivus*, or stature. Some draw the conclusion from this *teshuva* that a disposable cup is called *akeli*; although it is not acceptable for *kiddush* it would be acceptable for *netilas yadayim*, which does not require *chashivus*. Minchas Yitzchak

(10:23) rules that one should avoid using a disposable cup.

Rav Schachter, shlit"a, ruled that since even a disposable cup is often used multiple times in the course of a meal, it clearly qualifies as a *keli*. Many of the lenient *poskim*, however, agree that if one can avoid the question by thinking ahead and packing a proper (that is, durable) cup, one should do so. (see Piskei Teshuvos 159:7).