

Halachos of Daily Living  
Halachos of Zeicher Lechurban

What

is the proper way for one to make a year round zecher l'Churban (a remembrance of the destruction of Yerushalayim and the Beis HaMikdash) in the construction of one's home?

One

who builds a new house should leave a part of the wall, facing the entrance way, without plaster (*Shulchan Aruch OC560:1* and *Mishna Berura s.k. 4*)

or paint (*Kovetz Ohr Yisroel* 4, p. 89). The blank portion should preferably be at least

one *amah* by one *amah*, although Rav Belsky, *zt"l* said in the name of Rav Moshe Feinstein that *bidieved*, an area of a square *amah* is sufficient even if one side is less than an *amah* [e.g. 2 x ½ *amos*, which is an area of a square *amah*] (*Piskei Halachos*,

Vol 1, p. 113, quoting *Sefer Habayis*, p. 215,

footnote 11). There are numerous opinions among the *poskim* as to the size of an *amah*. Rav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l* calculates an *amah* as being 21¼ - 22 inches (*Igros Moshe OC 1:36, YD 3:66:1*).

**Are there any situations in which one may be lenient about leaving an unpainted and non-plastered area of the wall, facing the entrance way, to commemorate the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash?**

The *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* (126:1) indeed

wonders why many people are lenient in fulfilling the requirement of leaving

an *amah* by an *amah* unpainted and non-plastered in their newly built homes *zecher l'churban*. (See *Aruch HaShulchan OC560:3, 4* for a possible leniency.) Nevertheless, there is an opinion in the *poskim* which maintains that if one's spouse does not want the area exposed, then one may paint a spot measuring an *amah* by an *amah* in a

different color than the rest of the wall instead (*Ohr L'tzion* 3:30:1).

However, Rav Belsky, *zt"l* maintained that this should not be done *l'chatchilah* (from the outset) (*Piskei Halacha* Vol. 1, p. 114).