

Is Maras Ayin a Problem in Front of Non-Religious Jews?

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Question: In the last segment, we said that construction work may be done by a non-Jewish *kablan* on a property that is out of the *techum* of any Jew. What about non-religious Jews? Would it be a problem if they are within the *techum* of the work?

Answer: There's very little written material on this question.

I spoke about this with my father-in-law, Rav Shlomo Miller, and he noted that there were many non-religious Jews in the Chofetz Chaim's time as well, but he still says that construction work can be done if it is outside the *techum* of the Jewish community. This seems to indicate that he was not concerned about non-religious Jews who are within the *techum* of the property.

Apparently, the problem of *maras ayin* is that people who see someone doing something on Shabbos will be affected and will come to transgress Shabbos themselves. This concern would not apply to non-religious Jews, who do not observe Shabbos in any case. According to this, there would be no problem of *maras ayin* in front of irreligious Jews.