

Q&A from the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

On the House
March 28, 2024

Q Does a greenhouse require a mezuzah?



A There is a *machlokes* whether a mezuzah is required for something other than a living space. The *pasuk* (Dvarim 6:9) says, “*Uchsavtam al mezuzos baisecha* (And write them on the doorposts of your house),” and some authorities say that “*baisecha*” means a living space (Rambam Mezuzah 6:7) and excludes a storehouse (*bais ha’otzar*). Others, including the Shulchan Aruch (Y.D. 286:1), consider storage space to be *baisecha* because there is foot traffic (Shach *ibid.* 2).

In practice, one must affix a mezuzah to a *bais ha’otzar*. Some *Acharonim* say not to make a *bracha* (Aruch Hashulchan *ibid.* 9), but others allow it (see Chovas Hadar 2:3).

The Shulchan Aruch (*ibid.* 7) cites one view that a walled garden does not require a mezuzah, because its walls aren’t for shelter, only to keep out intruders. This is unlike a *bais ha’otzar*, whose walls shelter its contents, like the walls of a house (Mikdash Me’at 286:27). The Shulchan Aruch also cites a view that a garden needs a mezuzah *mideRabanan*. A *bracha* should not be made.

A greenhouse requires a mezuzah like a *bais ha’otzar*, because the structure shelters the plants from the elements (see Minchas Yitzchak 10:116, who rules this way without explanation). This applies only to a greenhouse whose purpose is plant cultivation. A greenhouse that is used for recreation and is adjacent to the home is considered a *chatzeir* (courtyard) and requires a mezuzah according to all, and a *bracha* should be recited (Chovas Hadar 2 note 25).