

## Q&A From the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

Potstickers

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**Q** I *toiveled* a new pot, but only after reaching home did I discover that there was a sticker on it. Must I redo the *tevilah* without the sticker?

**A** There is a *de'Oreisa* obligation to *toivel* metal food utensils that were owned by a gentile and are now owned by a Jew. If they are glass rather than metal, the obligation is *deRabanan*. (Contemporary *poskim* consider Corelle, Pyrex, and Duralux to be glass for this application. A full discussion of which utensils require *tevilah* is beyond the scope of this article.)



A *chatzitzah* (obstruction) invalidates the *tevilah* of a utensil as it does that of a person, so stickers must be removed, as well as the residual glue. (WD-40, nail polish remover, Goof Off, Goo Gone, and similar products are quite effective for this application.)

*Mide'Oreisa*, only an obstruction that a) covers most of the body or utensil, and b) whose presence one minds, is a *chatzitzah*. *MideRabanan*, an obstruction that meets only one of these qualifications is still a *chatzitzah*. *Lechat'chilah*, even an obstruction that meets neither criterion should be removed before *tevilah*.

Stickers on *keilim* rarely cover a majority of the item, but if they're intended to be removed prior to use, they would be a *chatzitzah mideRabanan*. If you forgot to remove them before *toiveling*, repeat the *tevilah* with a *bracha*. If you would mind the sticker but most people wouldn't, or vice-versa, omit the *bracha*.

A sticker that you'd like to keep permanently on the utensil, e.g., one containing instructions or warnings, or one that increases the utensil's value by displaying the name of its prestigious manufacturer, need not be removed. Because you want it there, it is *tafeil* to the pot and not a *chatzitzah*.