

# Housekeepers, Cleaning Ladies etc. in Halacha

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## Yichud

- There's an issur derabanan for a man to be alone with a non Jewish woman
- Any male over the age of nine has this issue
- If the front door is unlocked then it's allowed as long as there's a chance that someone may come in
- This will not help when people are no longer in the streets (approximately ten pm in most locations)
- If there's three boys over age six then there's no yichud

## Trust

- Non Jews are not trusted when it comes to Halacha
- This is because they don't believe in what we believe in so they won't take Halacha seriously
- We are NOT concerned that they will purposely try to feed us non kosher
- They're not trusted to check fruits and vegetables for bugs
- They're not trusted to check for blood spots

## Bishul Akum (food cooked by a non Jew)

- Because of the fear of intermarriage, the Rabanan made a gezeira that we can't eat any food that's cooked by a non Jew
- This ban only applies if the food meets BOTH of the following criteria: 1. The food can't be eaten raw (ex. Meat, pasta, bread etc.) 2. The food is important enough to be served at a king's table (ex. Meats, potatoes, fish etc.)
- If the food is missing one of the above then it can be cooked by a non Jew
- Cholent is considered bishul akum
- Eggs are considered bishul akum

- Water, coffee, tea etc. are not considered bishul akum
- Food that was already cooked can be warmed up or reheated by a non Jew
- Rewarming food (pizza etc.) in a pizza maker, George Forman is allowed
- These halachos apply even in the house of a yid
- If the yid lights the fire, according to Ashkenazim, the non Jew can cook. According to sfardim the food has to be placed on the fire by a yid or mixed substantially by a yid
- A non Jew is allowed to light the fire if the yid puts the pot onto the fire
- For Ashkenazim, some opinions say, a yid lighting the pilot light helps but it shouldn't be relied upon unless necessary
- Nowadays, most ovens that are found in homes don't have pilot lights
- If a non Jew lights the fire then a yid can raise the flame or add fuel to the flame
- A microwave is considered cooking like any other cooking and is not allowed
- A non Jew can't even cook for themselves in a yids house using the yids utensils
- Foods can be cooked in secondary utensils (kli sheni)
- EVEN WHEN NON JEWS ARE EXPLAINED THE HALACHOS OF COOKING, THEY DONT UNDERSTAND THE NUANCES AND DIFFERENCES. THEREFORE IT'S NOT ADVISABLE TO EVER LET THEM COOK OR WARM UP ANYTHING UNKESS THERE'S SOMEONE FRUM THERE

## If a non Jew cooked without the above leniencies

- The basic Halacha is that the food is not kosher and the utensils need to be kashered
- This applies even if the non Jew cooks only for themselves

- There are scenarios where earthenware utensils can be kashered. Ask a Sheila
- There are many disagreements to these halachos. If this happens then ask a Shaila because many times there are ways to be lenient
- In some scenarios we can be lenient if it was cooked on behalf of a yid in a yids house
- Some foods are debatable if they'll be served on kings table
- The food may not have been fully cooked
- We will apply many of these leniencies when it comes to help for the elderly and infirm

### **Leaving a non Jew alone in a home**

- A non Jew is not allowed to be left alone because there's concern that they may cook non kosher food in the utensils
- We also have to be concerned with foods that are left alone and may be taken by the non Jew and replaced with a cheaper non kosher meat
- Wines. See further

### **Wine and Grape juice**

- Wines that are not cooked (not mevushal) can potentially be prohibited even to benefit from, depending on the level of involvement of the non jew
- Cooked wines have no issues. Most are of the opinion that pasteurized wine is considered cooked

### **Prohibited to even benefit from**

- If the non Jew touches, even with a utensil, the actual wine (not just the bottle)
- If they shake or pour the bottle of wine (this applies even to the wine that's left in the bottle)
- If they drink from a cup of wine

### **Permitted**

- If the bottles is sealed then nothing can happen to the wine
- If they just carry the wine without shaking it or just touched it

- If the wine is on a refrigerator etc. door and the door was opened by the non jew, the wine is fine
- Non Jews can't be left alone with unsealed uncooked wines
- Two seals are preferable but one seal is enough. A cap is not a seal
- If they were left alone, the wines have to be spilled out (the kitchen will also need to be kashered lechatchila. Bidieved there are leniencies)

### **How to avoid**

- If someone is home, even if they're not in the same room, it's acceptable
- If someone is coming and going and the non Jew is concerned that someone may come home at any minute is also acceptable
- A video camera that faces the kitchen is acceptable
- Shutting the electricity in the kitchen is acceptable (if the non Jew doesn't know how to turn it back on)
- All utensils can be locked up
- If the non Jew was left alone, bidieved, most are of the opinion that after twenty four hours the utensils will be allowed.
- If the meats and foods that were left alone are recognizable then they're still kosher
- These last two leniencies can only be relied on in a bidieved situation

### **How to leave a non Jew alone in a house. In order of preference:**

- They must know that they can't cook and they can't have wine
- The wine should be sealed
- They must be scared that someone may come in at any time

If the were left alone then both the wine and the kitchen are no longer kosher. The two go hand in hand. Either they're both kosher or they're both not kosher