

Shabbos in Hotels/Rentals/Hospitals

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Electric doors etc.

- Going through electric doors on Shabbos is not allowed
- Wait until a non Jew goes through the doors and then follow right behind
- In desperate circumstances, some allow walking through the doors backwards (this is a shinui on a melacha that is from the Rabanan)
- Motion sensor hallway lights that turn on when there's movement are problematic. In this scenario, you should preferably not leave the room
- If there's light in the hallways and the sensor just illuminates it better, it's allowed
- Another option is to plug in a nightlight that will always stay on into an outlet in the hallway
- Outside lights that work with a motion sensor: if it'll be dark without the lights, you can't walk there. If there is light there but the motion sensor light just illuminates the area, you can walk there
- Security cameras are not a problem because you're not interested in being recorded
- Bathrooms with electronic sensors shouldn't be used. If you have no choice then it's allowed but try and cover the sensor with a tissue etc.
- Food shouldn't be taken from the wet bar in the room if it's electronic. If it's not electronic, the food can be taken on Shabbos

Electric issues in a hotel room

- Planning to ask a non Jew to open hotel room doors is not allowed
- If you put something in the room to give to the non Jews when they open the door (like a beer or candy etc) and you tell them that they can help themselves to them, they can open the door for you because they're really doing it for themselves
- If the above isn't possible, tape should be placed over the lock or the door should be wedged open with something (put valuables into a safe)
- If after doing this the door gets locked, then a goy can be asked to open it
- If the heat/air conditioner/fan is on a sensor and it goes on automatically when you enter the room, then you have a problem. Covering the sensors or buying an oscillating fan that constantly moves may alleviate this problem
- No opening the porch door if it will shut the heat/air conditioner/fan

Elevators

- One is not allowed to use an elevator on Shabbos
- This applies even if a non Jew VOLUNTARILY presses the buttons for you
- If the non Jew is going to a certain floor for himself, there's halachic basis to allow "hitching a ride"
- Shabbos elevators should only be used by the elderly or infirm (late stages of pregnancy)
- Going down in a Shabbos elevator is more problematic than going up
- An escalator that doesn't beep etc. can be used, however some don't like it because it's not in the spirit of Shabbos

Eruv

- The only way to carry outside of a hotel/home on Shabbos is if the property is completely surrounded by fences/walls etc.
- If there's even one opening that's bigger than sixteen feet it will ruin the Eruv

- A security gate/pole that allows people to enter and leave is not considered a fence
- It's very rare/difficult for a beach to be inside an Eruv so be careful to check pockets before walking there
- When staying in a remote location, there's a possibility that one may end up walking outside of the techum
- The distance for walking outside of the techum is a little more than half a mile past the last building

Water

- Swimming on Shabbos is not allowed for many reasons
- Going into water, even without swimming is also not allowed
- Just dipping feet in water is allowed

Suntan

- There's a disagreement if suntanning is allowed on Shabbos. Most are lenient
- Sitting outside without the express intent to get a tan is allowed according to all opinions
- Dressing respectfully in honor of Shabbos while sitting outside should be considered
- Suntan lotion that's thick and doesn't pour very easily can't be used
- Spray that makes a liquid can be used and can also be rubbed into the skin

Muktza

- Drawers etc. that will be used on Shabbos should have the muktza removed before Shabbos
- Same goes for suitcases that will be moved on Shabbos
- Passports are muktza
- There's a disagreement if snow is muktza
- Making snowballs is definitely not allowed

Shabbos candles

- Where to light Shabbos candles depends on the policy of the hotel
- If they allow candles to be lit in the room then that's where they should be lit
- If not, light candles where you're eating the meals
- If they make you light candles in a hallway or lobby, turn on a lamp or bathroom light in the room and then without talking go to the lobby etc. and light the candles with a bracha
- If not, light battery powered electric candles or flashlights in the room. Many say that a bracha can be made

Melacha done by non jews

- If a non Jew does melacha for a yid on Shabbos, even voluntarily, the yid can't benefit from it on Shabbos
- It goes without saying that even if the non Jew is hinted to do melacha, a yid can't benefit from it on Shabbos
- There are scenarios where hinting helps but it's complicated
- There are many scenarios where a non Jew can be asked directly to do melacha for a yid. Especially if the melacha is from the Rabanan. Ask a shaila
- Even if a non Jew made coffee/hot water for themselves or the hotel guests, a yid can't partake in it unless there are very few yidden in the hotel