

Guide to Halachic Measures

Following is a handy reference guide to some of the more common measures you may come across in *halachic* literature. Please make note of these two important caveats:

- (1) There are many differing opinions as to these measurements; for our purposes, we have generally gone with smaller measurements, such as placing an *amah* at 18 inches. However, according to opinions that place these measurements larger (such as an *amah* at 24 inches), subsequent measures (*beis seah*, for example) will be exponentially larger.
- (2) This piece is intended to be informational – so when you see “*beis kor*” (for example) you have an idea whether that’s closer to the size of your front yard or the outfield at Yankee Stadium. It is *not* intended for *halachic* purposes. Questions of practical application, such as how much matzah to eat at the Seder or how much water a sick person may drink on Yom Kippur, should be directed to one’s own rabbi.

Length

Etzbah (finger-width)

about three-quarters the width of a finger of an inch



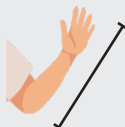
Tefach (handbreadth)

about three inches the breadth of a hand



Amah (cubit)

about 18" the breadth the length of an arm from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger



Mil

about six-tenths of a mile

The distance one might walk in 18 minutes



Parsah

about two and a half miles

The distance one might walk in 72 minutes



Area

Beis Rova

the area in which one might plant a *kav* of seed – approximately 250 square feet

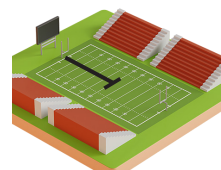
the size of a typical master bedroom



Beis Seah

the area in which one might plant a *seah* of seed – approximately 690 square yards

6,210 square feet – around half a football field



Beis Kor

the area in which one might plant a *kor* of seed – approximately 4.3 acres

187,308 square feet – around two and a half city blocks



Volume

K'zayis

the size of a large olive



Koseves Hagasa

– the size of a large date – about 1.5 ounces

This is volume that constitutes halachic eating vis-à-vis Yom Kippur.



K'beitza

the size of a large egg



Malei Lugmav

a cheekful – varies by the person, but is the greater part of a *revis*

This is the volume one must drink for Kiddush.



Revis

a quarter-log; a little more than three ounces

the volume of a paper bathroom cup or two shot glasses



Pras

Three or four eggs, depending on the authority

the volume of half a loaf of bread



Log

six eggs – about 13 ounces

a little bit more than a can of soda



Kav

four log

about four-tenths of a gallon



Seah

six *kav*

a little less than two and a half gallons



Ephah

three *seah*

a little more than seven gallons



Kor

ten *ephah* – a little more than 73 gallons

the approximate volume of three kiddie pools

