

## HALAKHIC OVERVIEW

### Selecting

**In the Tabernacle:** Waste intermingled with plants used for dyeing was selected and removed.

**Definition of the labor: Removing waste from food**  
There is a dispute whether the essence of the prohibition is **removal of the waste** or **rendering of the food fit** for consumption. In any case, it is prohibited to select even a small amount of waste, even if the mixture is not yet fit for consumption.

**Primary category of labor:** Removing waste from food (even by hand for immediate use), and perhaps also their separation with a utensil

**Subcategory:** Selecting food from waste by hand for later use, and making cheese

**In what cases is it permitted to select?**  
In order to permit Selecting, three conditions are required: (1) One must select **food from waste**. (2) It is permitted only **by hand**. (3) It is permitted only for **immediate use**.

### Definition of food and waste

**Is there a prohibition of Selecting with regard to two types of food?** (For example, if a person does not like onions and wants to remove them from salad)

**Rashi:**  
It is permitted to do so.

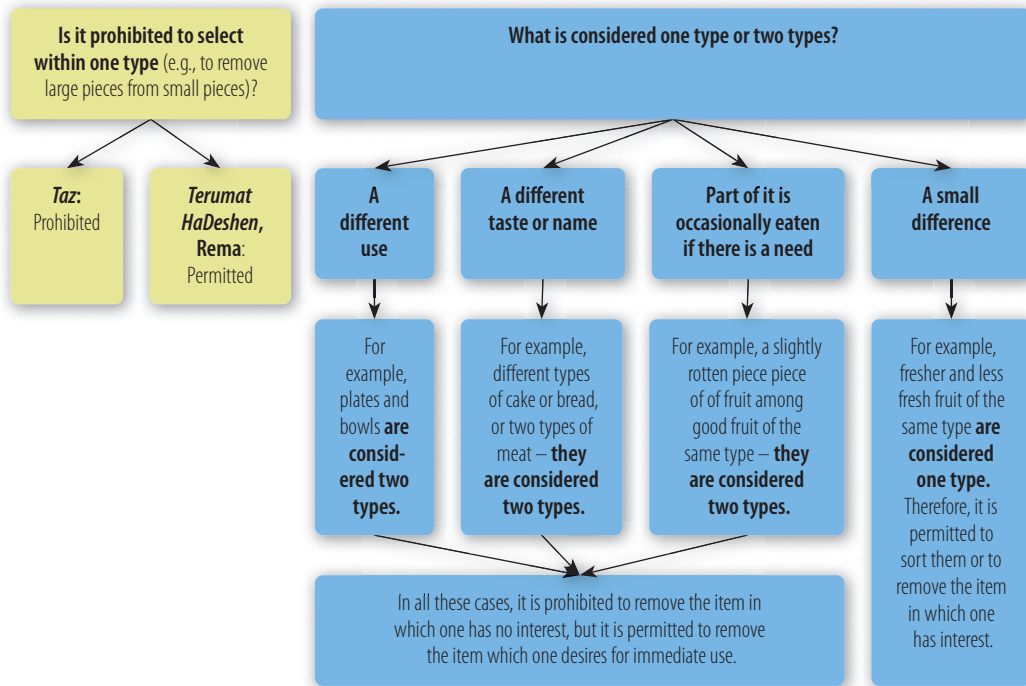
**Tosafot, and the halakha:** It is prohibited: The type that one does not want now is considered waste, and one may not remove it from the other type.

**Is it permitted to sort on Shabbat?** (For example, to sort knives, forks, and spoons or to separate black and white chess pieces)

**Peri Megadim:**  
It appears to be permitted, as there is no food and waste here.

**Beur Halakha** (and this is the *halakha*): It is prohibited, because this thereby renders the mixture fit for consumption or use. It is permitted to sort for immediate use.

Definition of food and waste (continued)



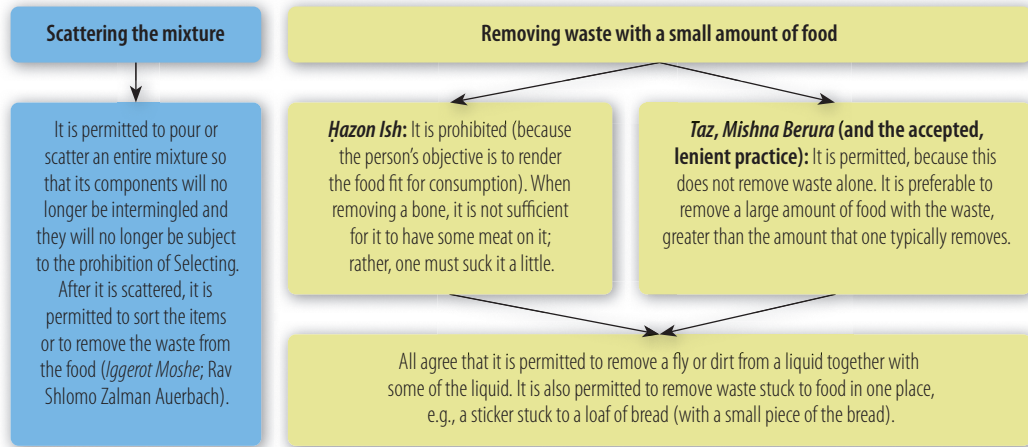
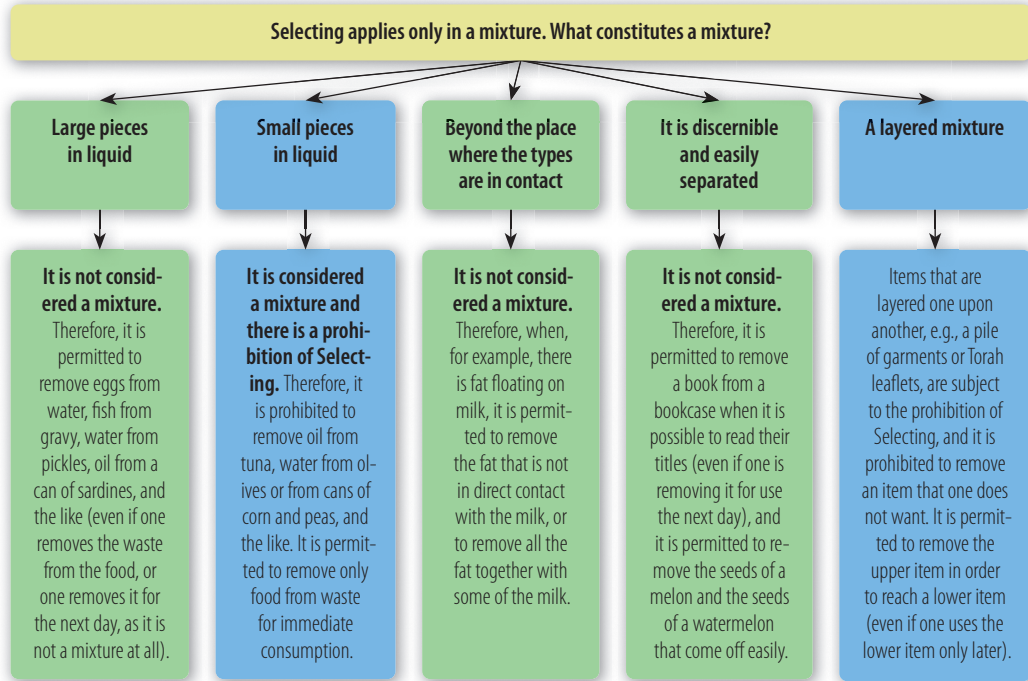
Items other than food

There is a prohibition of Selecting (according to Rashi).

Is there a prohibition of Selecting with regard to silverware or clothes?

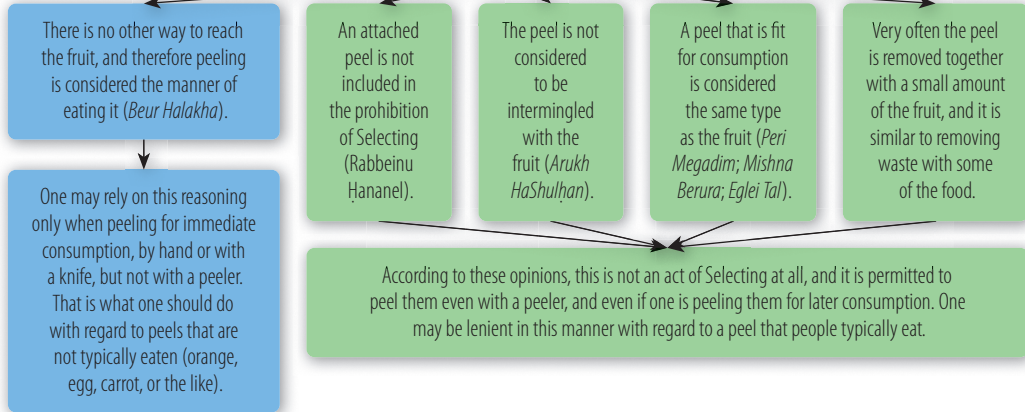
- Or Same'ah:** There is no prohibition of Selecting in that case, as one does not use them together when they are intermingled. **Responsa Yabia Omer:** It is permitted to sort silverware for use in the coming meal, even if it will take place only in several hours.
- Mishna Berura, Iggerot Moshe, Shemirat Shabbat KeHilkhata (should be followed Lekhatila):** There is a prohibition of Selecting with regard to silverware, game pieces, garments, and the like. Therefore, one should not sort silverware on Friday night for the morning meal, but it is permitted to sort it for the proximate meal. Likewise, it is permitted to wash all silverware without intent to sort, and after washing to place them in their appropriate places.

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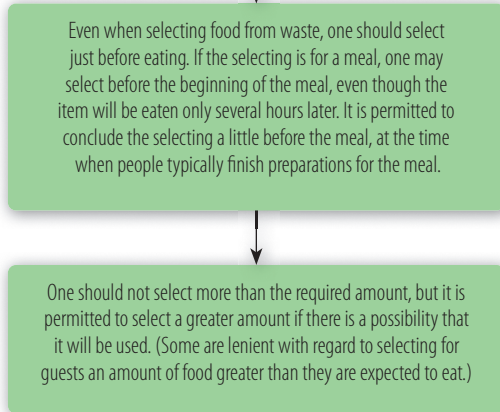


Peeling fruit and vegetables

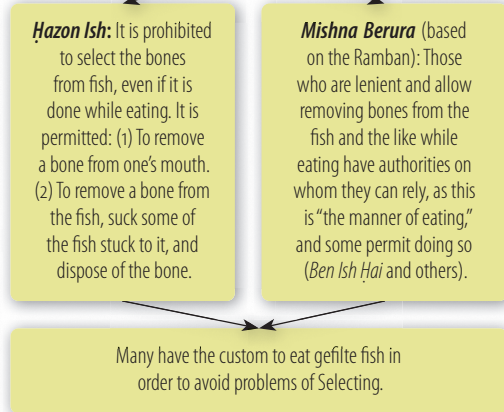
Why is it permitted to peel fruit and vegetables on Shabbat?



The definition of "immediate"



Selecting while eating



The definition of "by hand"

If the utensil facilitates the selecting, it is considered a utensil and it is prohibited to select with it. But if the utensil does not facilitate the selecting, rather the person uses it only to avoid dirtying hands or because the food is hot, there is no prohibition.

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