

# Shoel U'Mashiv

## Getting a Handle on the Situation

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**Q** - In the early 2000's Munchkin, Inc., the baby product brand, had a revolutionary invention aimed at remedying a perpetual problem that parents face—a spoon that indicates whether food is too hot. It is a metal spoon with a piece of colored silicone that goes over the bowl of the spoon that turns white if the food is above 110°F. The question I was asked is does this spoon require *Tevilah*?

**A** - What are the basic rules of *Tevilas Keilim*?

The *Shulchan Aruch Y.D.* 120:1 tells us that any *Keilim* (utensils) used for a meal that were bought from a non-Jew require *Tevilah*. The *Mitzvah* of *Tevilas Keilim* is learned from *Bamidbar* 31:23, that explains how to prepare *Keilim* for use that were taken by the Jewish people after the war with *Midyan*. The *Shulchan Aruch* teaches us that metal and glass *Keilim* require *Tevilah*. The Torah itself only mentions metal, but the *Gemara Avodah Zarah* 75b says that glass is like metal since they both can be melted down and reformed. Therefore, we say to *Tovel* a glass *Kli* with a *Bracha*. The opinion of the OU is that plastic and rubber do not require *Tevilah*. This also seems to be the prevalent opinion among most *Poskim*.

What if part of the *Kli* requires *Tevilah* and part of it doesn't require *Tevilah*?

The *Shulchan Aruch Y.D.* 120:6 says if a wooden *Kli* is held together by metal, it does not require *Tevilah*. The *Rema Y.D.* 120:7 disagrees and says if the metal is so essential that one would not be able to use the *Kli* without it, then it does require *Tevilah*. The *Shach* 12 says in such a case to do the *Tevilah* without a *Bracha*.

What should we do with our spoon?

The main part of this spoon is the metal part and the silicone is merely a covering. Furthermore, there would be no way to use the spoon without the metal. Based on what we said above, many follow the opinion of the *Shach* and the proper thing to do is *Tovel* the spoon without making a *Bracha*. Alternatively, one could *Tovel* the spoon along with other *Keilim* that do require a *Bracha*.