קָפֶה בְּשַׁבָּת

Making Coffee on Shabbat

Bishul, keli rishon and keli sheni, irui, coloring water, muktzeh grounds, and the timer-driven coffee maker: the melachot that meet you at the kettle on Shabbat morning.

THE QUESTIONS ON THE TABLE השאלות

1. **May instant coffee or tea granules be added to hot water on Shabbos?**
   One should be stringent and use only a Kli Shlishi.
2. **May ground (unbrewed) coffee be prepared in a kli sheini on Shabbos?**
   Ground coffee may not be brewed even in a kli sheini on Shabbos. One should use a kli shlishi at minimum.
3. **May instant coffee (Nescafe) be prepared in a kli sheini on Shabbos, and what is OU policy?**
   One may add instant coffee to a kli sheini. Igros Moshe permits pouring hot water directly onto instant...
4. **May Splenda (artificial sweetener) be added to hot coffee or tea on Shabbos?**
   Splenda should be added only to a kli sheini. Since Splenda is considered fully cooked, and since many poskim...
5. **May instant coffee be prepared in a kli sheini on Shabbos? (Az Nidberu — roasting concern)**
   Stringent — additional reason beyond inedible-to-edible: the manufacturing process converts the coffee from...
6. **May milk be added to hot coffee on Shabbos?**
   Permitted. Since commercially sold milk is pasteurized (i.e., already cooked), adding it to coffee is only a...
7. **May instant coffee be prepared in a kli sheini on Shabbos? (Shemirat Shabbat Kehilchatah)**
   Permitted to make instant coffee in a kli sheini.
8. **May instant coffee be prepared in a kli sheini on Shabbos? (Be'er Moshe — stringent)**
   Stringent — instant coffee should not be made even in a kli sheini.
9. **What is the ideal method for making coffee on Shabbos that satisfies all halachic opinions?**
   Put coffee grounds and sugar into an empty cup (which will become a kli shlishi), then pour boiling water...
10. **May hot water be poured onto instant coffee, tea, or cocoa on Shabbos? (Lenient opinions)**
    Permitted to pour hot water directly onto instant coffee/sugar/cocoa even in a kli sheni.
11. **May hot water be poured onto instant coffee, tea, or cocoa on Shabbos? (Stringent opinions)**
    Stringent: one should not pour hot water directly onto instant coffee/sugar/cocoa.
12. **What is Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach's nuanced position on instant coffee (nems) in a kli sheni on Shabbos?**
    Generally permits instant coffee in a kli sheni, but raises the roasting concern (bishul achar afiyah) as a...
13. **What Shabbat concerns arise in preparing a cup of coffee?**
    Boiling coffee or tea may not be poured onto sugar in the cup; one pours the drink first and adds sugar...

14 **Does freshly ground coffee have the halachic status of a Keli Rishon, given that the heat in ground coffee (referenced in Mishnah Berurah 216:16) is generated by the grinding friction itself?**

Rav Schachter rules: a vessel (or substance) heated by friction is treated with the stringencies of a Keli…

15 **Is there a tzovea (coloring) concern when adding coffee or tea to hot water on Shabbos?**

Some poskim say one should put the coffee or tea in the cup first and then add the water, to avoid the…

16 **What is the muktzeh status of coffee beans (whole/roasted/ground) on Shabbos?**

Unground coffee beans — even if roasted — are muktzeh machmat gufo (set aside due to their intrinsic unusable…

17 **May a filter coffee maker be used on Shabbos by setting a Shabbos clock (timer) before Shabbos?**

The article discusses the permissibility of pre-setting a filter coffee maker with a Shabbos clock.

LEARN IT INSIDE עיין במקור

Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 80:3 ↗

Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried (Kitzur Shulchan Aruch), 1804–1886

One should not pour boiling coffee or tea on Shabbat into a cup that contains sugar; rather, pour the coffee or tea first and afterwards add the sugar.

(עִקַּר הַמְּלָאכוֹת שֶׁנֶּאֶסְרוּ לָנוּ לַעֲשׂוֹתָם בַּשַּׁבָּת, כְּבָר נוֹדְעוּ לְרֹב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְלֹא נִכְתַּב כָּאן רַק מִדְּבָרִים שֶׁלֹּא נוֹדְעוּ לְרַבִּים וְהֵמָּה דְּבָרִים שְׁכִיחִים).אָסוּר לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ לְאוֹר הַנֵּר דָּבָר שֶׁצָּרִיךְ עִיּוּן קְצָת, דְּגָוְרוּ רַבָּנָן, שֶׁמָּא יִשְׁכַּח וְיִטֶּה אֶת הַנֵּר, לְקָרֵב…

WORTH ARGUING ABOUT צריך עיון

- Everything hangs on the chain of vessels: keli rishon, keli sheni, keli shlishi. Track where the hot water is at each pour and you can predict most rulings.
- Instant coffee and ground coffee get different treatment — ask why pre-cooked (roasted or spray-dried) matters, and whether ein bishul achar bishul applies to a dry solid.
- The modern machine questions (timers, pod machines, urns) are old principles in new hardware: who is doing the cooking, and when did it start?