



Direction and Guidance on How to Install a Mezuzah

When moving into a new home...

A mezuzah should be put up immediately. If you're only renting, and the house or apartment is located in the diaspora, then the mezuzah can be put up within 30 days.

When moving out of a home -- and the next occupant is also Jewish -- it is considered disrespectful to remove the mezuzot. But since there is a significant expense involved (since one house could have many mezuzot), it is appropriate for the new occupants to pay for the mezuzot, or alternatively to offer to put up their own.

Where can I find a Sofer or buy?

A large store on the net can be found on <http://www.stam.net> For other stores fell free to [e-mail](#) the Rabbi.

Where do I put Mezuzos?

In practice today, the custom is to put a mezuzah on most doors that people use. Therefore, a Jewish home typically has mezuzot on the front and side doors, porch, bedrooms, living room, playroom, garage (if used for storage and not just cars), laundry room, etc.

Closets and other small spaces that are not large enough to be used for normal living do not need a mezuzah. (Though some authorities require it.)

Perfect Placement

1. When placing the mezuzah in the case or on the wall, be sure that the Hebrew word "*Shaddai*," which is written on the back of the parchment, is facing outward (i.e. toward the entrance once it is affixed). Also, make sure the mezuzah is not upside down!
2. The mezuzah should be placed on the right-hand doorpost -- i.e. on the right side of the door as you enter the room.
3. How far up on the doorpost? The mezuzah should be placed on the lower part of the upper-third of the doorpost -- approximately shoulder height. (The Talmud compares this to phylacterys (Tefillin), which is placed on the upper arm.)
4. At which angle? The Ashkenazi custom is to position the mezuzah at a slight angle, with the top half pointing toward the room you are about to enter. The Sephardi custom is to place the mezuzah straight up vertically. (If the doorpost is too narrow to allow for a slant, Ashkenazim also place it vertically.)
5. If the doorway is deep, the mezuzah should be placed on the doorpost within 3 inches of the entrance. If the doorway has little depth, i.e. it is not possible to place the mezuzah on the doorpost within the doorway itself, then the mezuzah is placed on the outer part of the doorpost, within 3 inches of the doorway.
6. The mezuzah should be permanently affixed, with glue, nails or screws. Tape that would easily fall off if

bumped into is regarded as too temporary to be considered "affixed." Similarly, velcro and magnets may not be used.

7. The mezuzah must be affixed both on the top and bottom. When using double-sided foam tape, either use one long piece which reaches the top and bottom of the mezuzah case, or put two pieces -- one on top and one on the bottom.

8. A strong glue or double-sided foam tape is acceptable only if the case opens from the top or bottom. If the case opens from the back, then by using glue or foam tape, only the removable back of the cover will be "affixed to the doorpost," while the hollow section containing the mezuzah will not. Therefore, a case which opens from the back should be affixed with nails or screws.

Reciting the Blessing

Before reciting the blessing, the case with the mezuzah enclosed should be held against the doorpost -- ready to turn the first screw or tap in the first nail. If using glue or foam tape, be prepared to firmly affix the case on the doorpost immediately upon completing the blessing.

Once the mezuzah is in position, but before affixing it to the door, the following blessing is recited:

Phonetic Hebrew	Baruch Ata Adonoy, Elo-heinu Melech Ha'olam, asher kid'shanu bi'mitzvo-sav, vi'tzivanu leek-bo-a mezuzah.
English	Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us with His mitzvot, and commanded us to affix a mezuzah.

If you are hanging many mezuzot at the same time, only one blessing is recited on the first mezuzah -- usually the front door. When making the blessing, have in mind the remaining mezuzot, and try not to make any interruptions until all the mezuzot are affixed.

Kissing the Mezuzah

Mezuzot provide our home with divine protection and a sense of well being. They are treated with a huge amount of respect. The tradition, which has been passed down thru the ages, teaches us to kiss the Mezuzah. From an early age, children are taught the value of Mezuzot by being lifted up and afforded the opportunity to kiss the adorned case.

When fixing the Mezuzah

When affixing the mezuzah we make the blessing, Blessed are You, God our God, King of the universe Who made us holy with His commandments and commanded us to affix the mezuzah"). It must be affixed in a permanent manner. The person affixing the mezuzah should be over the age of bar or bas mitzvah.

How often do I need to check my Mezuzos?

Mezuzos need to be checked twice every 7 years. Have them checked by a certified Sofer. Computer scanning can be done to examine for missing letters or words. This examination is inexpensive, and it only needs to be performed once. Computer scanning is not counted as being checked, as the computer only looks for spelling mistakes. Only a Sofer is qualified to notice cracked, peeling, or touching letters.