

STAR-K SHEIMOS GUIDELINES

The Torah forbids discarding holy objects into the trash. Objects which have *kedusha* must be placed in *sheimos*, which must be buried. Objects that acquire *kedusha* after being used for a mitzvah do not need to be placed in *sheimos* but do need to be disposed of with special care.

Is it Sheimos?

See the chart below to determine which objects need to be put into *sheimos* and which do not.

YES

- Any of the names of Hashem.
- *Sefer Torah* or *Sefer Torah* cover
- *Seforim*, whether handwritten, printed, photocopied, or downloaded and printed (e.g., *Chumashim*, *Siddurim*, *Machzorim*, *Gemara*, etc.).
- Fragment of a *sefer* that got detached, even if there is no writing or print on it.
- Book cover of a *sefer*
- Printed material primarily intended to quote or to explain Torah, even when containing non-Torah portions. This includes *Mishna*, *Midrash*, *Gemara*, *Rishonim*, *Achronim*, and any three consecutive words of a *posuk* from *Tanach* that have been written in one line, with the intention of quoting Torah (as opposed to a *melitza*, an incidental use of a common expression, which is not *sheimos*).
- Halachic and other Torah material (such as this poster)
- *Tefillin* or *tefillin* bag
- *Mezuzah* or *mezuzah* cover
- Homework and test papers in *limudei kodesh* subjects when containing any of the above.
- Invitations from organizations and individuals that contain parts of *pesukim*, written with the intention of quoting Torah (as opposed to a *melitza*, which is not *sheimos*)
- Material written or printed in English or any other language if they conform with the above rules.

NO

Items that should be double-wrapped (*kli besoch kli*) in paper/plastic and placed in the garbage/recycling bin

- Jewish newspapers, magazines, novels, and biographies which primarily contain non-Torah information. (Alternatively, pages that contain Torah may be removed and placed into *sheimos* and the rest placed in the trash or recycling bin.)

Items that should be single-wrapped in paper/plastic and placed in the garbage

- *Talis*, *talis* bag, *tzitzis* (Ideally, the strings of a *talis* or *tzitzis* should be removed and placed in *sheimos*.)
- *S'chach*, *esrogim*, *lulavim*, *hadasim*, and *aravos*
- *Yarmulka*

Items that can be placed directly in the garbage/recycling bin

- Hebrew language books, newspapers, etc. that are completely secular
- The Hebrew letters ב"ס"ד (*B'siyata Di'shmaya*)
- The Hebrew letters א"י"ה (*Im Yirtzeh Hashem*), ב"ה (*Baruch Hashem*), and בעז"ה (*Be'ezras Hashem*). It is considered an act of piety to tear off those letters and put them into *sheimos*.