

PLACING A MEZUZAH: FACTS YOU MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED



With decades of involvement in the mitzvah of affixing mezuzos, CMC has seen many common misconceptions regarding their **proper placement** that often go unnoticed. As we enter the month of Elul, it is an opportune time to look into this fundamental mitzvah and ensure that we are fulfilling it in the most mehudar way possible.

With best wishes for a **כתיבה וחתימה טובה לשנה טובה ומתוקה**,

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CHECKLIST #1

I Made Sure to Affix the Mezuzah Properly:

- ☒ I used screws, nails or mounting tape to affix the mezuzah to the door frame.
- ☒ I did not use scotch tape, masking tape or velcro when mounting my mezuzahs.
- ☒ I did not tape the mezuzah parchment to the door frame **without using a mezuzah case**.
- ☒ I affixed the mezuzah in a manner that is firm and **not easily removable**.
- ☒ I ensured that the mezuzah is not hanging on the door frame by means of only one nail or screw.
- ☒ For any mezuzah exposed to a lot of sunshine, I did not use a clear or metal case. For any mezuzah exposed to rain, I used a hard plastic case that only opens from the bottom.
- ☒ I avoided using a clear case for any mezuzah that is affixed inside a bedroom, whether it is on an archway or closet door or bedroom door that closes with the mezuzah on the inside of the bedroom.
- ☒ I did not allow Gentiles to mount a mezuzah. (This issue commonly arises when painting or renovating.)

CHECKLIST #2

I Made Sure Not to Overlook These Locations:

- ☒ Garage - ALL doors.
- ☒ Boiler room (the amount of interior space in the room may be a factor).
- ☒ Shed (the size of the shed may be a factor).
- ☒ Balcony (the size of the balcony may be a factor, and on which side of the door to place the mezuzah may vary).
- ☒ "Jack and Jill" room (doors that do not lead directly into a lavatory).
- ☒ Low exterior door leading to a crawl space (see **figure 2a**). The size of the crawl space and the door height may be a factor.
- ☒ Low interior door leading to a crawl space/storage (see **figure 2b** on the next page). The size of the crawl space and the door height may be a factor.

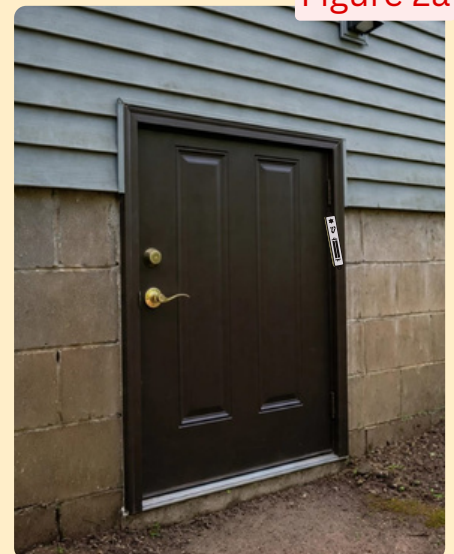


Figure 2a

- ✓ A small (less than 4x4 amot) entryway leading into a much larger (more than 4x4 amot) room. A mezuzah is required for both the entryway and the larger room. (see **figure 2c**).
- ✓ Exterior gate (see **figure 2d** below) that has two side posts and a top post.
- ✓ Exterior door frame entryway structure (See **figure 2e** below).
- ✓ (See **figures 2f and 2g** below.) A mezuzah is required on the front door and also on the archway.

Figure 2c



Figure 2b

Notice that if the way that the door closes prevents a mezuzah from being placed on the inside of the doorpost, then it may be placed in front of the doorpost, as shown here.



Figure 2e

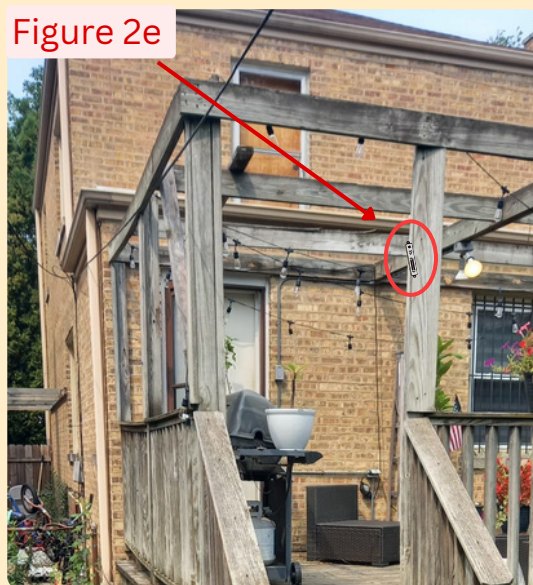


Figure 2d



Figure 2f



Figure 2g

CHECKLIST #3

Affixing the Mezuzah in the Proper Place

- ✓ For a wide doorpost (see **figure 3a**), make sure to affix the mezuzah toward the outer edge (the beginning of the entrance - טפח הסמוך לחוץ) rather than in the middle of the width.
- ✓ (See **figure 3b** below.) A mezuzah is placed where shown if a sliding door has a fixed (non-moving) glass panel alongside the sliding track
- ✓ (See **figure 3c** below.) The mezuzah is to be placed where shown. The counter height may be a factor.
- ✓ The differing applications of טפח הסמוך לחוץ in **figures 3d and 3e** below are based on whether or not the brick area to the right of the garage door is considered part of the doorpost.

Figure 3a



Figure 3c

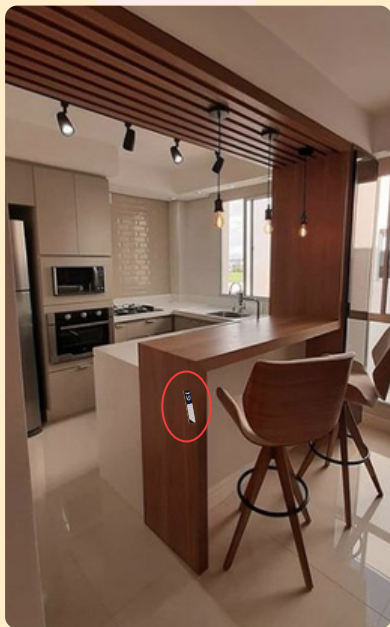


Figure 3d

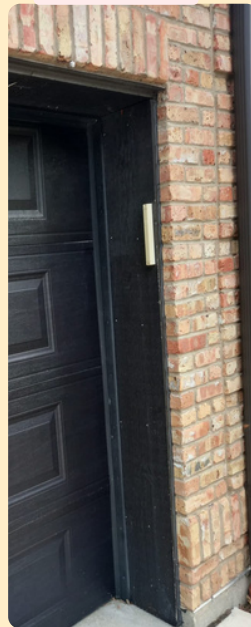


Figure 3e

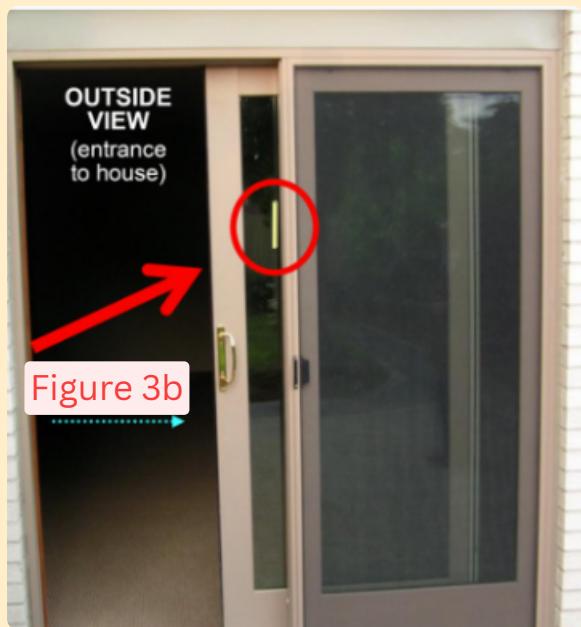
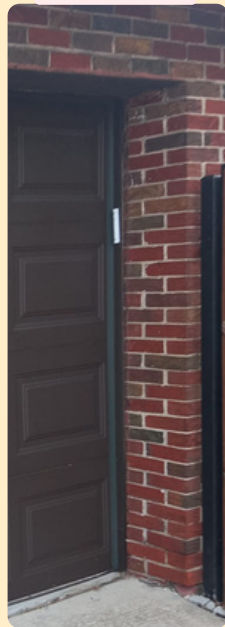


Figure 3b

To request a free on-site consultation at your location to verify which rooms require mezuzahs and precisely where to mount them, contact CMC:



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