

## *“Washing A Floor On Shabbos”*

*We have established that nowadays it is permitted to sweep the floor indoors. Is there a permissible method of washing an indoor floor on Shabbos?*

The normal method of washing a dirty floor - using a mop, rag or sponge - is strictly forbidden on Shabbos because one will definitely transgress the Shabbos Labor of Sechitah, squeezing the mop or the rag.

There are, however, some other methods of washing a floor which do not entail "Squeezing." Pouring a pail of water on the floor and then pushing the water down the drain or out the door with a plastic or nylon squeegee, or turning on a hose and spraying the dirty area (in commercial or institutional kitchens), are some of the methods where sechitah is not a factor. It is, however, still Rabbincally forbidden to wash an unpaved floor with the squeegee or the hose as well, because doing so may result in leveling the ground.

It is commonly accepted that even nowadays, when none of our homes have dirt floors - and sweeping indoors is permitted - it is still prohibited to wash the floors inside the home. Still, under extenuating circumstances, e.g., the floor is extremely dirty, smelly or dangerously slippery, etc., many poskim permit washing the floor as long as no transgression of Sechitah is involved.

*(Rabbi Daniel Neustadt, torah.org. For final rulings, consult your Rav.)*