



# Bishul Akum Conditions – Raw Food

Our Sages decreed that food cooked by non-Jews—*Bishul Akum*—is prohibited for consumption, even when the ingredients themselves are entirely kosher. According to most early authorities the rationale behind this decree is the concern that social interaction over meals might lead to intermarriage.

Based on this reasoning, our Sages established specific conditions under which food is classified as *Bishul Akum*. One key condition is that the food must be of a type that is not typically eaten raw. If a food is commonly consumed raw, then it is exempt from the laws of *Bishul Akum*. In halacha, this condition is referred to as “*ne’echal chai*”—literally, “eaten raw.”

## EXAMPLES

Classic examples of foods that are typically

eaten raw and are therefore exempt from *Bishul Akum* even if they are later cooked include fruits, most vegetables, and salt. Early halachic authorities clarify that even if a food is often improved through cooking, it is still exempt from *Bishul Akum* if it is commonly eaten raw.

For instance, while some nuts are preferred roasted, many people eat them raw. Therefore, they are not subject to *Bishul Akum*. Another example is mozzarella cheese. Although it is commonly used in cooked dishes such as pizza or lasagna, mozzarella is also widely eaten raw—as in string cheese making it exempt from *Bishul Akum*.

Rav Yisroel Belsky, zt”l, a *posek* for the OU, elaborated on this point. He explained that the exemption for foods that are “eaten raw” applies even if the food is significantly improved by cooking. As long as the food is considered edible in its raw form, it is not subject to the prohibition of *Bishul Akum*. Rav Belsky noted that classic halachic examples of foods not edible raw include eggs, flour, bitter dates, fish, and meat—foods that people would generally find unpleasant or unpalatable when raw. In contrast, foods that are edible raw, even if less desirable that way, are included in the category of *ne’echal chai*. An example of this is fresh sweet corn.

## MIXTURES

A more complex case arises when a mixture contains both foods that require *Bishul Yisrael* (i.e., must be cooked by a Jew) and foods that are exempt. What is the status of

# FOR SALE

## in Efrat's Gefen neighborhood

private home | 460 sqm built  
600 sqm lot | Two income-  
generating units

Asking  
price: **8,500,000 ₪**



Call now! Hadar 054-349-1794

**LAVI** license  
number  
324161



such a dish in relation to *Bishul Akum*?

*Poskim* differentiate between various types of mixtures. The *Rashb"a* (*Torat Habayit* 95) holds that the determination is based on the primary or more important ingredient in the mixture. The *Gemara* (*Avodah Zara* 38:a) discusses a dish known as *kessei de-harsana*, a food eaten in Talmudic times that consisted of fish oil and flour. The *Gemara* rules that since flour—an ingredient not typically eaten raw—is the primary component, the entire dish requires cooking by a Jew.

By the same logic, a dish such as sautéed vegetables with meat would also require *Bishul Yisrael*, even if the meat constitutes a slightly smaller portion by volume. Since the meat is the central component of the dish, its presence determines the halachic status (See *Aruch Hashulchan* YD 113:21-23).

The *Aruch HaShulchan* (113:14) adds that if the mixture contains equal parts of food that are eaten raw and food that are not, one may be lenient, given that the prohibition of *Bishul Akum* is rabbinic in nature. Although it seems clear to all authorities that in a case where the food which qualifies for *Bishul Akum* is the majority the mixture the product must be cooked by a Jew even if it is not the primary component of the dish (see *Aruch Hashulchan*, *ibid*). ■

### Kashrut Questions in Israel?

Call or Whatsapp Rabbi Friedman at  
050-200-4432

### Struggling to find the right apartment in Jerusalem?



Whether you're in Israel or abroad, I'll assist you in finding a home that truly fits – location, size and budget.

Local knowledge!

Professional  
service!

Real results!

Nahum Glatzer  
050-7225694



## KINOT UPDATE

**Drs. David Luchins  
and Ronald Wachtel  
will be leading Kinot  
Tisha B'Av morning with  
NCSY's ID Summer Program**

**Details forthcoming  
in next week's Tidbits**