

Halachos of shemiras einayim

Posted by davidt - 01 Feb 2024 15:18

The following is from the "Doeihu | Daily Halacha" email series

Shemiras Einayim - Part 1

Below is a short overview of the *halachos* of *shemiras einayim*.

1. It is forbidden for a man to **gaze** at a woman. One who does so transgresses the prohibition of “*V’nishmarta mikol davar ra*, you must guard yourself from every improper thing” (*Devarim* 23:10). In many instances, he also transgresses the prohibition of “*Lo sasuru acharei levavchem v’acharei eineichem*, you may not turn after your hearts and after your eyes” (*Bamidbar* 15:39). (*Berachos* 61a; *Shulchan Aruch* EH 21:1 and OC 75; *Mishnah Berurah* 75:17)
2. According to the letter of the law, if one merely **glances** a woman incidentally, without intention to gaze at her, he has not transgressed any prohibition. (The *poskim* write that the prohibition against looking at a woman only applies when one gazes at her, i.e., while concentrating and analyzing her features. However, if one merely glances at a woman superficially, without analyzing details or focusing on what she looks like, this is permitted according to the letter of the law. It is possible for one to know of the other person’s features after glancing at them many times. However, in this case, knowing the features is the result of glancing, rather than gazing.) (*Yam Shel Shlomo*, *Kesubos* ch. 2; *Pri Megadim* MZ 76:1; *Mishnah Berurah* 76:7; *Igros Moshe* OC 1:40; see *Chut Shani* EH p. 42)
3. From a *mussar* perspective, however, a man should avoid even glancing at a woman, certainly when that could lead to improper thoughts. (*Mishnah Berurah* 75:1 and :7; see *Chut Shani* EH p. 42)

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim

Posted by chooseurname - 20 Mar 2024 13:17

[davidt wrote on 20 Mar 2024 12:52:](#)

Wizmage

There is a very powerful but mostly unknown tool that can be a huge help, especially for those who, for various reasons, are not able to fully filter their computers properly but would very much like to.

(Please note that we are sharing the above information as we have received it. Please ensure to conduct your own research before installing any of such extensions.)

I learnt about Wizmage from @frank.lee here. It's been a lifesaver at work.

I did not know this edge trick and it looks like it'll be very helpful.

Obviously not even remotely comparable to a real filter, but at work where I can't install a filter it's been so helpful. I should also really install wizmage on my home browser since Techloq's skin tone filter can't filter google results images.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by Heeling - 20 Mar 2024 13:20

[chooseurname wrote on 20 Mar 2024 13:17:](#)

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Obviously not even remotely comparable to a real filter, but at work where I can't install a filter it's been so helpful. **I should also really install wizmage on my home browser since Techloq's skin tone filter can't filter google results images.**

I might be wrong but I'm pretty sure that Wizmage wont help for that either.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by chooseurname - 20 Mar 2024 13:55

Huh, looks like you're right. I'll consider that a win that I had never noticed that.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 21 Mar 2024 13:13

To block images on emails:

For Outlook: Click on the File tab on top – Trust Center – Trust Center Settings – Make sure that “Don’t download pictures automatically” is checked for both standard HTML and encrypted or signed HTML messages

For Gmail: Click on Settings symbol on top – See all settings – Under the General tab – In Images row – Make sure “Ask before displaying external images” is checked off – Scroll to the bottom and click “Save Changes”

Editors note:

In reference to the recent post regarding Netfree, it is important to note:

1. NetFree is a strong "filter"; however, having a high-standard whitelist filter from a frum filtering company will, in many cases, still be a better and more reliable option.
2. While NetFree is considered to be very reliable, as mentioned, it is not always the most practical option for everyone. Therefore, it is good to point out that other frum filter companies have recently established filters with standards similar to NetFree. Therefore, even if NetFree is not the option for you, find out from your filter company what is their best option most similar to NetFree —which filters on a level that exposes the user to the least nisyonos possible.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by retrych - 21 Mar 2024 17:41

I use Wizmage and it's great, but some kinds of images wont get blocked. I use it along wiht a skin tone filter and between the two everything gets covered

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 21 Mar 2024 20:05

Wizmage is available as an extension for Edge also.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 22 Mar 2024 13:57

Jewish Filters

16. It is important to use a filter that is inspected and certified by upstanding Jewish people who are involved in this holy work. This is because filters that non-Jews may consider to be strong by their standards would be considered weak by Jewish standards.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 26 Mar 2024 13:05

Apps

17. The fact is that many apps nowadays cannot be properly filtered on many devices. In many cases, filters do not work to cover images of people in apps. This means that even if a person has a good filter on his device, it will, in many cases, only work properly for the general browser but not for any apps.

Furthermore, if a filter company allows access to an app, not only will the app be unfiltered, the website on the browser that the app is connected to will many times also lose its ability to be filtered. For example, when a person leaves the Chase Bank app open, both the app and the Chase Bank website will be unfiltered in certain situations.

For this reason, one should only leave an app unblocked if he knows for certain that it contains no improper images or text. If it does contain immodest pictures or the like, it is forbidden to leave it unblocked. Instead, one would have to only use the website with a filtered browser.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 27 Mar 2024 12:45

If an Inappropriate Picture Pops Up

18. If an inappropriate image makes it through a filter and pops up on the screen, one must immediately look away without thinking about what he just saw. (As explained in the *halachos* of *shemiras einayim*)

Tip: If an inappropriate picture does pop up unexpectedly, one can click the “minimize” button (located in the top right corner of the page) right away. This will immediately cause the picture to become invisible, and one can then close the page or call the filter company to work it out.

19. If an inappropriate image or video pops up, and closing the full page is not an option for some reason, it is important to inform the filter company to ensure that it doesn’t happen again, both to this user and to others. Technology changes constantly and upgrades must be made, but unless the company is informed of the problem, it is very possible that they will not be aware that they need to fix it. Furthermore, problems can always occur with the filter on one’s computer and sometimes a glitch must simply be fixed.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 28 Mar 2024 14:08

Seeing Forbidden Sights “for Parnassah”

20. It is important to remember that the *heter* of “*ba’avidteih tarid*” (i.e., one who is busy doing work will not focus on things which distract him from his work) does not allow one to look at forbidden sights for *parnassah*. As such, if in order to do one’s job he must look at, or work with, immodest pictures, he should not assume that it is permitted. In each situation, one must seek guidance from a *rav* who is familiar with the circumstances and technicalities. (*Shu”t Meishiv Nevonim, Inyanei Shidduchim V’Nesuin* 53:6; *Be’er Moshe* vol. 4, 147:21; *Chut Shani* EH p. 70; as well as many other *teshuvos* from the leading contemporary *poskim* on this topic)

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by Heeling - 28 Mar 2024 14:28

[davidt wrote on 28 Mar 2024 14:08:](#)

Seeing Forbidden Sights “for Parnassah”

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A while ago R’ Joey Habar said on a Vayimaen video of someone to decided not to visit Las Vegas, because Hashem has enough ways to send me money, I don’t have to do things that are against His will to make a *parnassah*.

May Hashem bless all Yidden with loads of wealth,

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by davidt - 29 Mar 2024 13:44

A Boss’s Responsibility

21. In order not to transgress the prohibition of “*Lifnei iver lo sitein michshol*, do not place a stumbling block in front of a blind person” (i.e., do not cause another person to sin), as well as the prohibition of “*Mesayeia l’dvar aveirah*, helping another person sin,” and, if many people work for the company, the prohibition of “*machshil es harabbim*, causing many people to sin,” it is the responsibility of a business owner or company manager to make sure that every device used by his employees is equipped with a good filter. He must install the filter even it costs him money. He should not give the workers unfiltered devices with the assumption that they will install filters on their own.

It is worthwhile to note that this does not only apply to computers. It is equally applicable to other devices that are internet-capable, such as tablets, phones, etc.

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim
Posted by Heeling - 29 Mar 2024 14:06

[davidt wrote on 29 Mar 2024 13:44:](#)

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Why not?

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Please explain your question...

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