

## Laws & Customs

### Electrical Appliances on Shabbat

On Shabbat, *melachah*, "work," is prohibited. Our Sages explain that *melachah* refers to the activities which were necessary for construction of the Tabernacle, 39 types of work in all. Although there are thus many activities that are forbidden on Shabbat by Torah law, the Torah explicitly states only one of them. This is the prohibition of igniting a fire: "You shall not ignite a fire in any of your dwelling places on the day of Shabbat."

Although the halachic authorities concur that electricity per se is not considered fire it is nevertheless universally agreed upon that one may not operate electrical appliances on Shabbat. There are two reasons offered for this.

### Building

Turning on an appliance, which means completing the electric circuit, is like building. The appliance that is connected to a wall socket is considered "built" into the house when turned on. And an appliance that is battery-operated, is considered to be "built" as a completed appliance when turned on.

### Creation

Some say that operating electrical appliances is a violation of *molid*—creating. One who completes an electric circuit is "creating" that circuit that can be used to operate many appliances.



## Free Time

There are different types of arguments. There are the arguments that happen today and are forgotten tomorrow. And there are those arguments that are so heated that they can consume for years later. They are like a fire that has spread relentlessly and is not letting itself be extinguished.

What could spark these types of arguments is when they occur. When a person is "busy" they do not lose focus on what they need to accomplish and do not waste time with arguments of fire. However, if a person has "free time" it is easier for such an argument to occur. The more free time one has the greater the extent and impact of the disagreement.

"You shall not kindle fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day," tells us that on Shabbat the day we have "free time", as we are not working, we should not let a fire (heated argument) light up. We need to keep ourselves spiritually busy. This can be done by praying and learning more than on a regular day. That is called the spiritual work of a Jew on Shabbat.

כ"א - כ"ב אדר א'  
**February 25-26 2011**  
**Candle Lighting**  
**6:00**  
**Shabbat Ends**  
**6:55**

**In Honor of the  
 Klein Family**

## Speak

*A deserted wife once came to Lubavitch seeking the help of Rabbi Menachem Mendel. With her was her child, who was a mute. The unfortunate woman asked to be received by the Rebbe, but was refused. She even had the Rebbe's wife petition him on her behalf (as did many of the women who wished to see him) but to no avail.*

*Finally, the chassidim advised her to smuggle the child into Rabbi Menachem Mendel's study and have him hand the Rebbe a note asking for his help. She wrote a note describing her situation as a deserted wife, hid the child under the table, and told him to give it to the Rebbe when he entered the room.*

*When the child handed the note to Rabbi Menachem Mendel, he said: "Go tell your mother that your father is to be found in this and this place."*

*The child left the room, returned to his mother, and clearly articulated the message. The woman gained a divorce and financial compensation from her husband, and a healthy, speaking child.*

*When the miraculous results were excitedly reported to the Rebbe, he simply said: "How was I to know that the child was a mute?"*

## Saying

"The Torah expresses itself in the passive - 'work shall be done' - rather than using the active - 'do work'. This is to teach us the proper attitude toward our workday pursuits: the necessary mundane involvements of life should be approached in a matter-of-fact and unenthusiastic manner..."

**Rebbe**