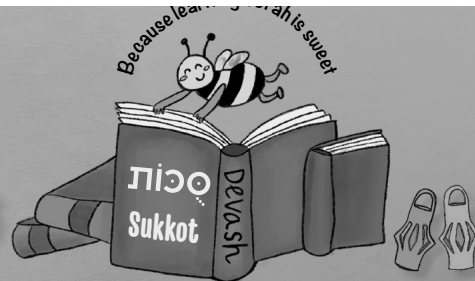




מִשְׁנָה • Mishnah



What are the rules for building a sukkah?

The main components are two walls and a bit of a third, and סִכְכָּה (skhakh) on top. For skhakh, we use natural materials that are disconnected from the ground, like tree branches.

Here are some more guidelines, all from the Mishnah, about what makes a sukkah either כָּשֵׁר (kosher, valid) or פָּסוּל (pasul, invalid).

As you learn these mishnayot, ask yourself: For each scenario, why is the sukkah described either kosher or pasul?

Sukkah Chapter 1

A sukkah that is taller than 20 amot (around 30 feet) is pasul (invalid). R. Yehudah says it is kosher.

If it is less than 10 tefachim (around 30 inches) tall, or if it has fewer than three walls, or if it is more sunny than shady inside—it is pasul...

If you make your sukkah under a tree, it's as if you made it inside your house!

סוכה פרק א

סִכָּה שֶׁהִיא גְבוּהָה לְמַעַלָּה מֵעֶשְׂרִים אַמָּה, פָּסוּלָה. רַבִּי יְהוּדָה מְכַשֶּׁר.

וְשֹׁאֵינָה גְבוּהָה עֲשָׂרָה טֶפָחִים, וְשֹׁאֵין לָהּ שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּפָנוֹת, וְשִׁחְמָתָה מְרַבָּה מִצִּלָּתָהּ, פָּסוּלָה...

הַעוֹשֶׂה סִכְתּוֹ תַּחַת הָאֵילָן, כְּאִלוֹ עֲשָׂאָה בְּתוֹךְ הַבַּיִת.



If you build a sukkah on top of another sukkah—the top one is kosher and the bottom one is pasul. R. Yehudah says: If no one is living in the top sukkah, the bottom one is kosher.

If you spread an awning over a sukkah because of the sun, or if you spread a sheet under the skhakh because of falling leaves, or if you have a canopy bed inside the sukkah—it is pasul.

סִכָּה עַל גִּבִּי סִכָּה, הָעֲלִיּוֹנָה כְּשֵׁרָה, וְהַתְּחִתּוֹנָה פְּסוּלָה.
רַבִּי יְהוּדָה אוֹמֵר, אִם אֵין דִּיּוֹרִין בְּעֲלִיּוֹנָה, הַתְּחִתּוֹנָה כְּשֵׁרָה.

פֶּרֶס עָלֶיהָ סִדִּין מִפְּנֵי הַחֶמֶה, אוֹ תַּחְתֶּיהָ מִפְּנֵי הַנֶּשֶׁר, אוֹ שִׁפְרֵס עַל גִּבִּי הַקִּינּוֹף, פְּסוּלָה.

- ♦ What do these rules teach us about how it should feel to spend our time in a sukkah on Sukkot? Think about it before you read on!

Here's one way to think about these rules. Sitting in a sukkah should make us feel some different—and even opposite—feelings. On one hand, we should feel protected, and so a sukkah should be stable. On the other hand, we should feel a little bit vulnerable—and in need of protection—and so a sukkah should feel temporary.

- ♦ Can you give an example of a sukkah that would make you feel too protected? How about a sukkah that would make you feel too vulnerable? (Your examples could be from these mishnayot or from your imagination.)
- ♦ How do sun and shade connect to the rules in these mishnayot?

