

Review Sheet #20:

Introduction to Shinui Makom:

1. A bracha is only effective as long as you remain in the **same place** where you said the bracha. As soon as a significant change of place occurs, the original bracha is no longer effective, and a new bracha is required if you want to continue eating. This is called *shinuy makom* -- literally, "a change of place."
2. What type of location change is considered a *shinuy makom*? Only a **major** change, i.e. one that you would not normally make in the middle of eating, terminates your bracha.
3. If you say a bracha and begin eating on one side of a room, and then decide to move to the other side of the room, this is **not** considered a *shinuy makom*. This is true even in a large banquet hall where one place may be very far from the other -- even to the point where you can't see your original location!
4. What about changing from room to room **within the house**? That depends, based on two factors: Factor #1 - When you said the original bracha, did you "**have in mind**" that you might subsequently change rooms? Factor #2 - After changing rooms, can you still **see the place** where you began eating? If the answer to **either** of these questions is "yes," then changing rooms is **not** considered a *shinuy makom*.
5. According to some authorities, moving from one room to another is not a *shinuy makom* **at all**. As long as the two rooms share the same roof, they regard it as just like moving from one place to another within the **same room**, which does not terminate your eating session.
6. So from the standpoint of practical halacha, if you want to eat in another room: It is preferable to have had in mind (while saying the bracha) to change locations, or have your original place visible from where you want to continue eating. However, even in the absence of these factors, you should still **not** say a new bracha.
7. Many people normally move from room to room during a meal. If that is your habit, then the rules of *shinuy makom* between rooms will not apply. Since it is common for you to change locations while eating, it is automatically assumed that you had in mind to do so when you said a bracha.
8. If there is a room that you normally enter during a meal, then going to that room is not considered a *shinuy makom*. For example, let's say that you leave the dining room to go into the kitchen... to sneak an extra piece of cheesecake. Even though you didn't "have in mind" to switch rooms when you started eating (and you can't see the dining room from the kitchen), no new bracha is necessary: Since you often go to the kitchen during the meal, it's **as if** you had it in mind.