

# Shoel U'Mashiv

## Homemade Eruv

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**Q** - "I'm in a fully enclosed gated community for *Shabbos*, do the walls around the neighborhood work as *Eruv*?"

**A** - What is the prohibition of carrying on *Shabbos*?

The *Mishna* in *Shabbos* 73a lists *Hotzah* (carrying) as one of the 39 *Melachos*. The *Shulchan Aruch O.C. 346:1* says the Torah prohibition is to carry from a private domain (a *Reshus HaYachid*) to a public domain (a *Reshus HaRabim*). A public domain is typically defined as a place where 600,000 people pass through daily (*Shulchan Aruch O.C. 345:7*). A private domain is a space that is 4 *Amos* long by 4 *Amos* wide (approx. 6'x6') with walls that are 10 *Tefachim* tall (approx. 32") or a platform that is 4 *Amos* long by 4 *Amos* wide and 10 *Tefcahim* high (*Shulchan Aruch O.C. 345:2*).

When is an *Eruv* necessary?

The *Shulchan Aruch O.C. 346:1* adds that the *Chachamim* prohibited carrying from a private domain to a *Karmalis* and vice versa. A *Karmalis* is something that does not fit the description of a public domain or of a private domain. The *Shulchan Aruch O.C. 366:1* says the *Chachamim* also forbade carrying from one private domain to another. In both cases, an *Eruv Chatzeiros* would need to be made. There are three parts to an *Eruv Chatzeiros*. First is to create or define *Halachic* walls, second is to rent the area of non-Jewish residents, if there are 2 or more (*Shulchan Aruch O.C. 382:1*) and last is to create a communally owned deposit of food, traditionally Matzah since it lasts a long time (*Rema O.C. 368:5*).

Is a fully enclosed neighborhood considered an *Eruv*?

The simple answer is not without creating an *Eruv Chatzeiros*. Even though the house is considered a private domain and so is the neighborhood outside (since it is surrounded on all sides by walls), there is still a Rabbinic prohibition to carry from one private domain to another. Therefore, an *Eruv Chatzeiros* would need to be made, including renting space from all non-Jews that live there and creating a communal deposit of food.