

## Letters

### Don't Leave Your Dryer Operating Unattended

#### To the Editor:

My wife was preparing a meal in the kitchen, and she was extremely alarmed when thick smoke started to pour out of the tumble dryer. Fortunately I received some fire training a few years ago, and rushed in and immediately turned the machine off from the mains. After a short assessment I decided to call the fire department, as the smoke was not diminishing and I was not prepared to tackle a fire that would have involved pulling the machine out and which could have been dangerous for several reasons.

Fortunately we had acted in time, preventing a proper fire from taking hold. It turned out that the lint that the dryer produces had somehow reached the heating elements and had smouldered away. The firemen, who were only a few minutes away, responded quickly, dismantling the machine and diagnosing the problem.

We've had the dryer inspected, and our repairman has told us that the same thing happened to him and a proper fire broke out in his kitchen. Fortunately, the firemen arrived within three minutes of his call, thus averting a major fire from breaking out.

I'd never heard of this happening before, but in the same week that we had our problem our friends also had a similar incident with their machine. The repairman said that this problem can occur with all brands of machines.

Considering this, it is important never to leave your tumble dryer on unsupervised. Whether you are out or whether you are sleeping, *chas v'shalom* you should ever experience what we did. One minute the machine seemed fine, the next...

*S. Music  
Manchester*

### Vacations in Switzerland

#### To the Editor:

I would like to take advantage of your paper to make your readers aware of the fact that on various occasions we have received a number of letters and remarks from non-Jews, complaining that Orthodox Jews do not behave according to the Swiss norms of polite behaviour and cleanliness.

*Chillul Hashem* is often caused by even one Yid failing to leave his flat clean or greet his neighbours, etc.

Unfortunately the non-Jews then generalize and say, "All Jews aren't polite/clean."

We would like to suggest a few points of guidance which should be taken into account when holidaying here in Switzerland:

In holiday resorts it is a common practice for people to greet each other by saying, "Guten tag," or merely nodding their heads. This applies especially in a block of flats when meeting other neighbours.

Ask your children to offer their seats to elderly people when traveling in a packed bus. This is the easiest way to make a *kiddush Hashem*.

A further point is to ask your Rabbi, in advance, how to kasher the cooker and hobs so that the rings will not break. Special caution is advised with glass/ceramic stoves, as covering them with aluminium foil will cause the glass/ceramic to break.

Even though you pay for "endreinigung" – a final cleaning – you are still expected to leave your flat spic-and-span and remove all rubbish as well.

The Jewish population in Switzerland is small, hence there are many non-Jews who have never met an Orthodox Jew. People are often interested in learning about the Jewish religion and customs. Please answer them when you are asked anything concerning Judaism.

We hope you will enjoy your holiday here in Switzerland, and leave a good impression of us Yidden here as well. This will help you and anyone else wanting to come here on holiday in future.

*Dr. Rolf Halonbrenner  
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