

***Dwelling in the Sukkah... The Idea of Home***  
Created by Rabbi Shari Shamah, Jewish Life Specialist

**The basis for dwelling in a *sukkah* comes from *Torah*:**

בַּסֻּכֹּת תֵּשְׁבוּ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים כָּל־הָאֶזְרָח בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשְׁבוּ בַּסֻּכֹּת:  
לְמַעַן יֵדְעוּ דִּרְתִּיכֶם כִּי בַּסֻּכֹּת הוֹשַׁבְתִּי אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהוֹצִיאִי אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths,  
in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I  
brought them out of the land of Egypt—I, your God יהוה. (Leviticus 23:42,43)

- Your *sukkah* needs to be temporary, not permanent.
- When you dwell in a *sukkah*, you recite the blessing for dwelling in the *sukkah*.
- Anything you would do in your home; you should do in the *sukkah*. Including, eating, drinking, reading, learning, socializing, relaxing.
- If you are only eating a snack, you can eat it outside the *sukkah*. If it's a meal, then you need to eat inside a *sukkah*.
- There are exceptions to the commandment to dwell in the *sukkah*. Heavy rain, mosquitoes (insects), hot or cold conditions that are extreme, not enough room for a bed, noise, and occasions when spouses want to sleep together, and one doesn't want to sleep in the *sukkah*.
- Traditionally, women were not bound by the *mitzvah* of dwelling in the *sukkah*. However, a woman may make the blessing and dwell in the *sukkah*.
- While it is a commandment to dwell in the *sukkah* all eight days of Sukkot, on the first two days the requirement to dwell in the *sukkah* is stricter, on the intermediate days it can be more lenient.

**Dwelling in the *Sukkah* is a connection to the past:**

And the *Sukkot*, of which verse states God caused us to dwell in, were the Clouds of Glory which surrounded them lest they be struck by heat or the sun. And as a demonstration of these occurrences, God commanded us to make Sukkot in order that we remember His wonders and awesome deeds. Even though we left Egypt in the month of *Nissan*, He did not command us to make a *Sukkah* in that time of year since it is in the summer, and it is common for people to make huts for shade... (Tur, Orach Chaim 625:1)

**It is meant to remind us of what is important:**

This festival was established at the time of the grain harvest and the pressing of the wine, which might lead people to become proud and boastful about their homes that are filled with abundance. They might even believe that their wealth and success are solely due to their own efforts. By dwelling in a *sukkah* during this time, people are reminded to give praise and thanks to the One who has provided them with their inheritance and homes filled with all that is good.

**This acts as a reminder of the true source of their blessings and keeps them humble and grateful.** (Chizkuni, Leviticus 23:42, from Sefaria)

**A *Sukkah* reminds us to be humble and grateful. And we should work to make it as nice as possible – our home for the week:**

כיצד היא מצות הישיבה בסכה. שיהיה אוכל ושותה ודר בסכה כל שבועת הימים בין ביום ובין בלילה כדרך שהוא דר בביתו בשאר ימות השנה. וכל שבועת הימים עושה אדם את ביתו עראי ואת סכתו קבע שנאמר (ויקרא כג מב) "בסכת תשבו שבועת ימים". כיצד. כלים הנאים ומצעות הנאות בסכה. וכלי שתיה כגון אשישות וכוסות בסכה. אבל כלי אכילה כגון קדרות וקערות חוץ לסכה. המנוחה בסכה...

How must the *mitzvah* of dwelling in the *sukkah* be fulfilled? A person must eat, drink, and live in the *sukkah* throughout all seven days [of the festival], both during the day and at night, in the same manner as he dwells in his home throughout the year.

During these seven days, he must consider his house as a temporary dwelling and the *sukkah* as his permanent home, as [Leviticus 23:42] states: "You shall dwell in sukkot for seven days."

What does this imply? His attractive utensils and attractive bedding [should be brought] to the *sukkah*. His drinking utensils - i.e... (Mishneh Torah, Shofar, *Sukkah* and *Lulav* 6:5-7)

**How will you make your *sukkah* your home???? [Here](#) are some more ideas!**

