



לא תלבש שעטנז צמר ופשתים יחדו

(דברים כ"ב; י"א)

DO NOT WEAR SHATNES -

A GARMENT CONTAINING WOOL & LINEN.

ובגד כלאים שעטנז לא יעלה עליך

(ויקרא י"ט; י"ט)

A SHATNES GARMENT SHALL NOT COVER YOU.

## SHATNES LABORATORY

203 Lee Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206

(718) 387-8520

בפיקוח ובהוראת בית דין צדק משפט שלום  
"מיוחד לעניני כשרות"

Open Sunday ..... 10:30 am - 6:00 pm

Mon. - Thurs. .... 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fri. .... 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

כתוב בספר מגן אברהם .. מהמגיד מ'טריסק זצוק"ל, עה"פ  
לא תלבש שעטנז ... "ואיתא ג"כ שהאותיות שעטנז הם  
האותיות שיש עליהם תגין, וזה מרמז שהמלאך ... המעלה  
את התפלות וקושר כתרים לקונו מתפלתם של ישראל,  
אינו מעלה תפלת האדם הלושב שעטנז בשעת תפלתו."

MOST OF THE SHATNES THAT  
WE FIND TODAY IS LOCATED IN  
THE COLLAR AREA OF BETTER  
MENS SUITS..... (tell your friends)

# MOST OF THE MORE EXPENSIVE

# WOOL SUITS(\$400 & UP) CONTAIN A PIECE OF LINEN IN THE COLLAR



## WHERE DO WE FIND SHATNES ?

What must I look for when buying clothing?

Why is Shatnes prohibited?

What don't I have to worry about?

What should concern me the most?

Follow our calendar ,  
We will tell you about:

Mens jackets and pants  
Womens dresses & suits.

FABRICS

Custom made suits

Purim costumes

Linen suits

Thrift shops

AVAIL YOURSELF OF  
THE SHATNES LAB'S  
SERVICES:

SAMPLE TAKERS  
TESTING IN STORES  
SEND IT BY UPS  
REPLACING SHATNES  
PHONE INQUIRIES

## MENS SUITS JACKETS AND PANTS

Most of the Shatnes that we find today is located in the collars of mens jackets and especially in the more expensive suits.

As a matter of fact: **The more expensive the suit, - the greater The likelihood for it to contain Shatnes.**

Most mens suits are made of wool or wool blends. To retain the shape of the collar of a jacket, a collar stiffener is sewn into the collar and located between the fabric of the suit and the piece of felt underneath the collar. For decades, the tradition of the clothing industry has been to use linen (flax) for collar stiffening and thus maintain the shape of the collar, especially when the jacket is steam pressed. However, the linen and wool combination create a Shatnes situation which is prohibited.

Of late, the clothing industry has generally replaced the use of linen with much less costly materials such as polyesters and various acrylics, but when price is no object the industry still prefers to use linen as a collar stiffener. **PLEASE BEWARE.** The piece of linen to be replaced is about 4 inches wide and 15 inches in length and it's a small tailoring job.

Other parts of a jacket that may contain linen are located behind the lining. A front canvas which maintains the shape of the face of a jacket or a seam binding around the sleeves may also be made of linen. These are more common in imported suits and suits of high quality. For these reasons, all mens suits as well as jackets and coats should be tested to be sure that no Shatnes is found behind the lining or in the collar area.

Today, unlike years ago, we rarely find Shatnes in mens pants. Whereas linen was often used in the waistbands of mens trousers as a stiffening to keep its' shape today the industry has found other alternatives which are less expensive and do the same job. Nylon mesh, rayon and plastics are some of the fabrics that are used in waistbands today. Although there are several very expensive brands that still use the traditional method of linen waistbands, but except for these very rare cases, we never find linen in mens pants. When buying a pair of pants by itself, you must first always **read the content label** to be certain that the fabric itself does not contain any linen. If for example, the label states 100%wool or 50% wool and 50%dacron, you needn't suspect that there is any linen in the pants.

## Что такое ШАТНЕЗ?

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Соединение шерсти и льна.  
Тора запрещает еврею одевать одежду содержащую Шатнез.

Почему Шатнез запрещён?

Тора не объясняет причину.

Кроме шерсти и льна, есть ли ещё другие запрещённые соединения?

Только комбинация шерсти и льна запрещена. Если в ткани есть шерсть и лён, даже если в ней содержатся и другие элементы, это всё равно Шатнез.

В каких видах встречается Шатнез?

1. Сама ткань содержит шерсть и лён. Это нельзя исправить. Поэтому перед покупкой всегда следует прочитать информацию на бирке, где указано из чего сделана ткань.

2. Разные составляющие одежды образуют Шатнез. Например: шерстяной пиджак с льняной подкладкой подшитой под ворот или шерстяная аппликация нашитая на льняное платье.

Как узнать нет ли в одежде Шатнез?

Проверить одежду в Шатнез Лаборатории.

**BE ON THE ALERT FOR THE  
FOLLOWING THREE RULES  
WHEN YOU BUY CLOTHING**

**FIRST: READ THE LABEL**

What is the fabric content ?  
Look at the list of contents that  
is printed on the label.  
Make sure it does not say  
**"wool and linen"**

**SECOND: IS THERE A LINING  
OR EMBROIDERY?**

Materials behind the lining or on  
the face of the garment are not  
mentioned on the label.  
It may need checking.

**THIRD: CALL US ANYTIME.**

We can tell you if the garment  
needs to be checked or not.

**LADIES' SUITS MAY  
ALSO CONTAIN SHATNES**



# לכבוד פורים

## BEFORE YOU PUT ON A COSTUME REMEMBER THESE FACTS:

many rented uniforms.....may have Shatnes  
 army & navy uniforms.....may have Shatnes  
 Russian military uniforms  
 jackets, pants and hats .....may have Shatnes  
 old clothing bought  
 in thrift shops .....may have Shatnes

אסור ללבוש כלאים אפי' דרך עראי  
ש"ע יו"ד סימן ש"א ס"ד

BEFORE PURIM  
**SHATNES LAB OF WILLIAMSBURG**  
 WILL א"ה CHECK PURIM COSTUMES

**.. FREE OF CHARGE ..**

BUT PLEASE COME EARLY.

**SHATNES LABORATORY**  
 203 LEE AVE. BROOKLYN N.Y.  
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**המתפלל בבגד שעטנז  
אפילו בשוגג  
תפלתו אינה נשמעת  
זוהר קדושים**

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**MOST OF THE SHATNES THAT WE FIND TODAY IS LOCATED IN THE COLLAR AREA OF BETTER MENS SUITS..... (tell your friends)**

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE MORE EXPENSIVE MENS WOOLEN SUITS CONTAIN A PIECE OF LINEN CANVAS IN THE COLLAR AREA & THIS PIECE OF LINEN MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE ANY YID IS PERMITTED TO WEAR THE JACKET. THE SEVERITY OF SHATNES IS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF KASHRUS AND IF YOU HAVE A KOSHER KITCHEN YOU NEED A KOSHER WARDROBE AS WELL. WHEN YOU HAVE THE SUIT TESTED FOR SHATNES, THE LAB WILL REMOVE THE LINEN AND PROVIDE YOU WITH A NON-LINEN CANVAS REPLACEMENT. THE TAILORING THAT FOLLOWS IS A SIMPLE ONE. JUST BEAR IN MIND THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE MORE EXPENSIVE MENS WOOLEN SUITS ( even though on sale ) CONTAIN A PIECE OF LINEN CANVAS IN THE COLLAR AREA.**

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פארלאזט אייך נישט אויף די  
פארזיכערונג פון א סוחר!

**rely thee not on the  
guarantee of the  
salesperson**

**DON'T BUY CLOTHES  
BEFORE YOU READ THIS**

When buying clothing ... please make sure to read the label for its fabric contents.

Any linen content in a wool fabric or any wool content in a linen fabric will constitute Shatnes.

It takes only one thread to make a garment prohibitive.

The label showing the fabric contents is usually attached to the jacket sleeve or dress sleeve or pants or skirt, or it may be sewn onto the lining of the garment.

Remember always that the fabric content listed on the label holds true only for the shell of the garment. But between the shell and the lining other materials are added. A collar canvas, a front canvas, shoulder pads, seam tapes and waistbands are all part of a garment. Any of these may render the garment Shatnes.

When buying fabrics for sewing or upholstering, especially fabrics with several colors, we advise you to have it tested for its contents.

We have had many cases where the customer was told that the fabric is 100% wool and when we analyzed it we found it to have a very small percentage of linen as well. You may send us a sample of the fabric and for a nominal fee we will tell you its' contents.





# פארוואס טרעט מען אויף מיר אזוי?

יחזק

PLEASE DON'T STEP ON ME!

I AM WRITTEN IN THE TORAH  
JUST AS ANY OTHER MITZVOH!

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# **LADIES' SUITS MAY ALSO CONTAIN SHATNES**

**cont'd....WOMENS CLOTHING.....READ THE LABEL**

Womens clothing contain a much greater variety of fabrics and colors than do mens'. For this reason, greater care should be taken when buying clothing and thereby avoid any Shatnes situation.

**A few simple rules:**

**First of all**, always make sure to read all the labels. This will tell you the fabric content. We have seen many cases where a Shatnes garment was worn for an extended period of time, even though the label clearly stated that the fabric used for this garment was made of wool and linen. The buyer simply forgot to read the label.

**Second of all**, the label refers only to the fabric content and not to what is behind the lining. There may be a linen seam binding or linen sleeve head behind a lining. This is not mentioned on the content label.

Therefore, a jacket, a coat or a blazer should be tested just to find out that all materials behind the lining are not Shatnes.

Some countries such as the U.S., Canada and most of South America rarely use linen in places other than the fabric itself.

But European and Asiatic countries are more prone to use various forms of linen in places other than the fabric itself.

**Third of all**, applique or embroidery applied to the face of the garment are not included in the content label. Therefore, **applique and embroidery** should always be tested. Most applique and embroideries do not contain linen but we cannot know for sure until the garment is tested.

**Childrens' clothing that contain applique should also be tested especially those that are imported.**

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## THE MAN AND THE LEGEND

With gratitude to Mesorah Publications, Ltd. and the ArtScroll History Series, we bring here an excerpt from the book **THEY CALLED HIM MIKE** the legacy of Reb Elimelech Tress and selections of chapter nine – The Refugee Home – describing the many services that the Zeirei Agudah provided for the hundreds of refugees that were accommodated at 616 Bedford Ave. in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

No aspect of the Refugee Home was to have a greater impact on American Orthodox life than the Shatnes Laboratory, which had its humble beginnings at 616 Bedford Ave. Only the single minded determination of Joseph Rosenberger, an occupant of the Refugee Home from 1940 to 1944 was to educate the Orthodox community in America about the prohibition of Shatnes and rescue this Mitzva from near total disregard. Between 80 and 90 percent of Orthodox Jews were then unwittingly wearing garments containing Shatnes.

Rosenberger arrived in America in 1940 after having spent 5 months in the Dachau concentration camp to which he had been sent along with thousands of other Viennese Jews. In his case, those months in the concentration camp may have saved his life. Despite having been able to present only a weak affidavit of financial support, he was granted an American visa by a sympathetic consular official who was appalled by the suffering he had endured in Dachau. Shortly after his arrival in the United States, Reb Yosef was approached by Mordechai Neuman z"l who knew that his parents had owned a clothing store in a suburb of Vienna and asked how one can ascertain whether a particular garment contained Shatnes. Reb Yosef did not know exactly how and began investigating. Speaking to tailors on the Lower East Side and in Williamsburg, he found that there was no repository of knowledge on the subject in America, and what is worse, little interest. From then on Reb Yosef was a man with a mission. His goal: to develop an accurate, quick and inexpensive test for Shatnes.

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He began by enrolling in Manhattan's Textile High School in order to learn everything about linen. Then he took menial jobs in the garment industry in order to understand what uses linen had in clothing design and where it was used in different types of garments. His remaining time was spent combing through learned treatises on linen, in the New York Public Library. Though there were already a number of existing tests for the presence of linen, he found that they all suffered from one of two crucial defects. They were either too slow or too expensive. Unless he could develop a test that was both fast and inexpensive, Reb Yosef knew, he would never be able to popularize Shatnes testing to a largely apathetic public.

It took less than a year for Reb Yosef to develop a test for the presence of linen that was both quick and cheap. But that was only half the battle- perhaps the easier half. There still remained the necessity of convincing the Orthodox public of the importance of Shatnes checking.

Over the years, the idea had taken hold that linen was never used in clothing anymore. There were those who claimed that the whole concept of Shatnes checking was a racket designed only to enrich the Shatnes checker himself. ( Even a cursory glance at the perpetually emaciated Rosenberger, who subsisted for much of this period on only bread and water, would have quickly dispelled any such notions.)

When Reb Yosef tried to speak one Shabbos in a Lower East Side Shul, he was hooted at derisively. Only after he gave a resounding bang on the bimah and announced that if every third person in the minyan was not wearing Shatnes he would donate \$1000, was he allowed to speak.

Reb Yosef's idealism elicited Mike Tress' support and Mike set out to do what he could to help him.

Orthodox Youth magazine provided free publicity for the project and Mike gave Reb Yosef free use of the office phone, mimeograph machine and typewriter. Late at night, Reb Yosef would sit up in the tiny fourth floor attic at 616 Bedford Ave., the door closed so as not to disturb his fellow occupants, and patiently teach himself to type. That skill would in the not - too- distant future allow him to put forth a seemingly endless stream of written material designed to inform an ignorant public.

But by far the most important service that Mike rendered Reb yosef was introducing him to Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, the Rabbi of the West Side Institutional Synagogue. Among the congregants of his Synagogue were many prominent Jews including a Mr. Alex Levy who owned Crawford Clothes, then a large chain of clothing stores.

Rabbi Goldstein convinced the owner of Crawford Clothes to lend Reb Yosef \$250 for a series of full page advertisements in the Jewish Morning Journal. The advertisements announced that Shatnes checking would be available at Crawford Clothes and free of charge to anyone requesting it. Reb Yosef was sure that his big break had finally come and that he would soon be able to pay off the loan from what Crawford Clothes would reimburse him for checking suits of those that requested it. When only five such requests were forthcoming in the first week, Reb Yosef was on the verge of tears.

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But unbeknownst to Reb Yosef, the advertisements had succeeded. Crawford's competitors did not know that the ads brought such a small response and assumed that if such a large chain store such as Crawford's considered it worthwhile to pay for Shatnes checking, they had better follow suit.

In addition, Crawford's competitors soon learned that they could no longer assure people with impunity that there was no Shatnes in a garment. Jews who read these ads began to bring their garments to Reb Yosef and if they proved to have Shatnes, as at least one third did, the purchaser would angrily take back his purchase to the store that had assured him that the garment was free of Shatnes.

Rabbi Goldstein also used his unparalleled institutional connections with the religious world to line up the support of almost every major Organization for the Shatnes Laboratory.

Among sponsoring organizations were: Agudas Horabonim, Agudas Anshei Chasidei Chabad, Agudas Hoadmorim, Agudas Israel, Board of Rabbis of NY Federation of Orthodox Rabbis of America Rabbinical Council of America, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Kahal Arugas Habosem, Agudas Israel Youth, Hapoel Hamizrachi, Mizrachi Organiz. Of America, and National Council of Young Israel.

In a March 1941 letter, under the OU letterhead sent to hundreds of congregational Rabbis, Rabbi Goldstein stressed the necessity that Rabbis press their congregants to demand Shatnes checking so that more and more clothiers would be pressured into providing such checking. In that letter he estimated the percentage of garments worn by Orthodox Jews containing Shatnes as approximately one in three.

In time the Shatnes Lab would grow beyond anything that Reb Yosef could ever have dreamt of. Today those trained directly or indirectly by Mr. Rosenberger provide Shatnes checking in so many Jewish Communities in America and around the world. It is also possible to have garments Shatnes checked in many of the finest clothing stores in major cities. Success only whetted Mr. Rosenberger's appetite for similar successes in encouraging Mitzva observance. He was also one of the founders of Hatzola, the emergency rescue service.

With the receipts of the Shatnes Lab he founded an organization called Torah Umitzvoth, which Rabbi Goldstein served as the first President and Mike Tress as Vice President. Torah Umitzvoth directed donations to Yeshivos and sponsored Hachnasas Orchim to many needy Jews.

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In his **צוואה**, his Last Will, Mr. Rosenberger asked for only one thing....."because I was so involved in serving the Jewish Public and teaching them about Shatnes, it left me with no time for myself to study Torah.....in my humble opinion, I think that the same Jewish Public can make this up to me by studying Mishnayos or saying Tehillim on the day of my Yartzeit."

His Yartzeit is the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Cheshvon. Sunday November 2nd. His name is Yosef ben Moshe Halevy.

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**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED  
THE HIDDEN MESSAGE OF  
THE HEBREW ALPHABET ?**

**אבגד • אבגד • אבגד**

**OUR FIRST AGENDA**

**בגד בגד בגד בגד בגד**

Are your clothes proper ?  
Are you dressed modestly ?  
Is your wardrobe Kosher ?  
Is it free of SHATNES ?

**APPLIQUE IS SOMETIMES  
MADE OF WOOL & LINEN**

**HATZOLA הצלה**

**for these area codes**

**(718) 387 - 1750**

**230 - 1000**

**(212) 387 - 1750**

**230 - 1000**

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**cont'd.....FABRICS.....**

When buying any fabric for sewing or the like, you must know the content of the fabric before you begin your project. All too often, we come across cases where someone bought a particular fabric and was told by the salesperson that the fabric is 100% wool or a blend of wool and polyester or something else. Then, after having spent countless hours on the sewing project they decided to have it tested anyway, only to find out that the fabric has a percentage of linen as well and cannot be used. ....Do yourself a great service **before you or your seamstress begin a sewing project; have the fabric tested** and save yourself a lot of aggravation.

Remember also, that generally anyone that sells the fabric can't really know the precise contents of the material.

**Tweeds** are more apt to contain threads of linen though the fabric may be sold as wool or something else. Often in tweeds, where the fabric does not contain a tight weave, we have found linen threads woven into the fabric in order to enhance the tenacity of the fabric. These threads are often not obvious but serve that purpose well, since linen is a strong material.

**Multiple colored fabrics** may include a thread of linen which was added for color effect or to simplify the dyeing process.

**When adding fabric to an existing garment**, such as the lengthening of a dress, special attention should be given to it so as not to inadvertently add a piece of linen to a wool skirt or wool to a linen skirt.

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