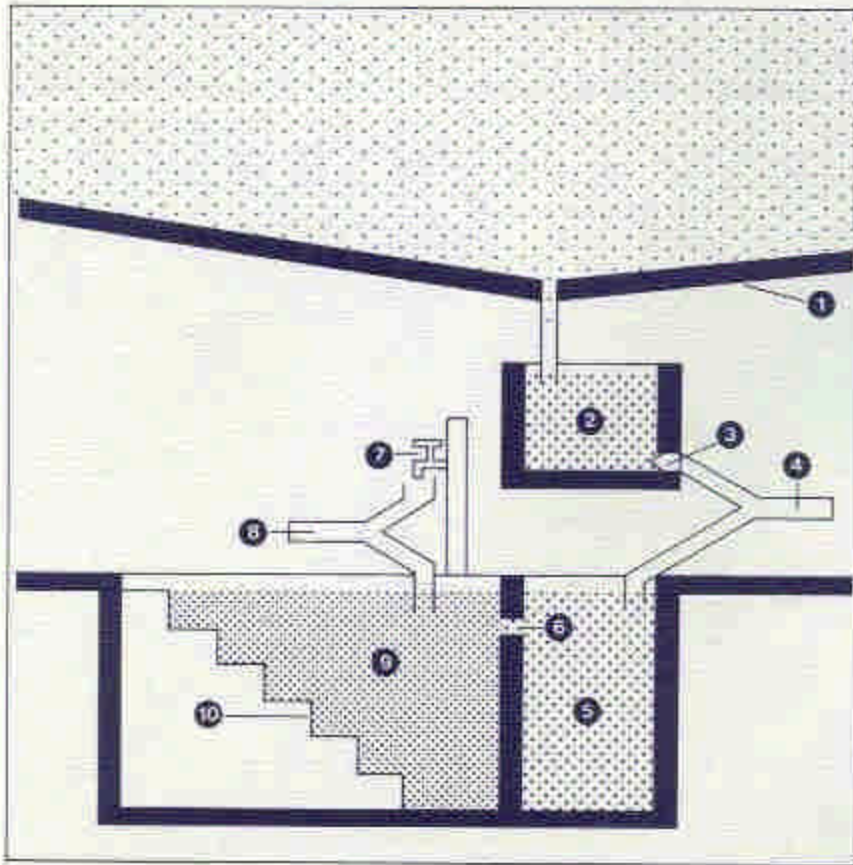




MIKVEH ISRAEL 
A TRIBUTE TO THE
MODERN JEWISH WOMAN

Welcome to Mikveh Israel

Through this brief photo-tour, we invite you to share our pride in our beautiful, modern mikvah. Built through the efforts of individuals and institutions representing the whole of Montreal Jewry, Mikveh Israel is a tribute to the community's dedication to the traditions of the Jewish people, to the strength of the Jewish family and to the dignity of the Jewish woman. Mikveh Israel offers the finest facilities: clean, private, well-maintained and designed to serve the diversified needs of our community.



Schematic diagram of a Mikvah

LEGEND:

1. Roof
2. Holding tank
3. Stopper
4. Concrete troughs
5. Bor
6. Opening
7. City water supply
8. Concrete troughs
9. Mikvah waters
10. Steps

How the Mikvah differs from the bath: the inside story of a Mikvah

A mikvah is constructed according to halachic specifications which are very detailed and rather complicated. The schematic diagram is necessarily oversimplified. It is intended to illustrate only the characteristics which differentiate the mikvah from any other pool of water.

A mikvah has as its source a gathering of natural waters by natural means.

At Mikveh Israel, the "natural waters" are rainwater*, collected through an opening in the roof (1). The water enters a holding tank (2) connected via inclined concrete troughs (4) to the Bor (5). A wooden stopper (3) is used to regulate the flow of water that enters the Bor.

A Bor is a reservoir built directly into the ground to which natural waters are channeled with no manual intervention. Halachically constructed and filled, a Bor is a kosher mikvah. It can then extend this status to any adjacent pool of still water (also built to halachic specifications) (9), provided that the waters are connected by an opening sufficiently large (6). The water in which immersion actually takes place (9) is collected from the city water supply (7) via another set of concrete troughs (8). The mikvah waters are changed regularly and rigorous standards of hygiene and cleanliness are maintained.

* Some mikvaot consist of spring water.



MIKVAH ENTRANCE

(facing page)

WAITING ROOM

(upper right)

RECEPTION AREA

(lower right)

Ritual and grooming supplies are available in the reception area as well as books and pamphlets on mikvah and Jewish marriage.





PREPARATION SUITE

(left)

Each of our eight preparation suites includes full bath, dressing area, clothes closet, towels and hair dryer. An inner door (locked to ensure privacy) leads to one of our two mikvah rooms.

MIKVAH

(facing page)



על מי מנוחות ינהלני

תהלים קכ"ג

Beside still waters He leads me.

(Psalms 23:2)



DISH MIKVAH

(upper left)

A separate mikvah is available for immersion of new dishes and utensils.

LECTURE ROOM

(lower left)

The lecture room, which is frequently used for meetings, lectures and discussion, is designed especially to accommodate parties to fete the bride-to-be in accordance with Sephardic custom.

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The mikvah attendants apartment is located on the premises to enable her to be available whenever the mikvah is needed and to ensure that religious standards are constantly maintained.



For More Information

- Mikveh Israel arranges tours of the Mikvah for groups or individuals and organizes discussions in groups or on a one-to-one basis.
- An audio-visual presentation and speakers are available.
- For more information, please call the Mikvah at 487-5581.
- Free parking is available near the mikvah.
- Bus transportation: Bus #104, 161 or 162 to Caldwell Avenue.

MIKVEH ISRAEL

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