



## Lace Top Wigs

*The following public service announcement was submitted by Mikvah.org, Ten Yad, and N'shei Chabad.*

From the very beginning of his leadership, the Rebbe strongly advocated for careful observance of the *mitzvah* of *kisui rosh*. The Rebbe specifically advocated for wearing a full *sheitel* rather than other modes of hair covering. The Rebbe maintained that this was the best way to ensure consistent and complete coverage. It is also clear from *sichos*, letters, and private audiences that the Rebbe saw tremendous value in a woman feeling comfortable and beautiful in her *sheitel* and encouraged the acquisition of high-quality, natural-looking *sheitels*, sometimes even assisting women financially. The Rebbe often stated that punctilious observance of this *mitzvah* elicits the flow of abundant *brachos* for the woman and all the members of her family.

Recently, many Chabad women have inquired regarding lace top/lace front *sheitels*. Wanting to keep the *mitzvah* of *kisui rosh* properly, they wish to know if there are any halachic concerns and what they might be.

In response, a group of *kallah* teachers has worked extensively with Rabbanim in our community to provide halachic analysis and guidelines to present to the women of the larger Chabad community.

The short answer is, yes, lace tops are halachically permissible. The issue is that they usually come unlined and that poses a problem. When the following guidelines regarding linings are adhered to, a lace top *sheitel* is a wonderful option for women who prefer a more natural and oftentimes lighter, more comfortable *sheitel*.

## LINING

All Rabbanim determined that to satisfy halachic requirements, the sheer areas of a wig—typically the part and the hairline—need to be fully lined to ensure that no hair is visible.

They differ in opinion regarding the opaqueness of the lining.

Some Rabbanim require that the lining itself be fully opaque. This will vary, depending on several factors, including hair color and the color and thickness of the material used for lining. The simplest way to determine if the lining is opaque is to place it directly over a contrasting color. If the color of the lining changes, it may not be opaque enough and the color of the hair might show through.

Some Rabbanim opine that the lining need not be fully opaque; it must, however, sufficiently mask the actual color and strands of hair underneath the lining. One standard lining (standard in 5784) usually satisfies the halachic requirement; using two linings is preferable.

It is best to consult with your own *rav/mashpia* as to which opinion to follow.

To acquire a lining, you simply need to request it from the *sheitel*-macher selling you the *sheitel*. It is a standard procedure but, unfortunately, it is only inserted upon request. Don't be shy to request a **PROPER LINING** if the first is insufficient. Once we are going through all the expense, hassle, time, and effort to buy and wear a *sheitel*, we may as well go the last mile and make it a kosher one so we can do what Hashem wants and also reap the benefits and the *brachos*.

## COVERAGE (FOR ALL SHEITELS)

Hair that extends beyond the natural hairline, including the list below, must be covered as well\*<sup>1</sup>. If a woman has difficulty covering these areas properly, she should consult with her *rav*.

- Widow's peak
- Hair on the forehead
- Hair on the temples
- Hair at the sides of the ears and above the ears
- Hair on the neck area that is behind the ears

We extend our thanks to the many Chabad Rabbanim from Crown Heights and other places and the *sheitel* professionals who have generously contributed their knowledge and time to bring clarity and support to women in fulfilling this integral *mitzvah*.

For further resources regarding the *mitzvah of kisui rosh*, please visit [mikvah.org/haircovering](http://mikvah.org/haircovering).

May the careful observance of the *mitzvah of kisui rosh* draw down abundant blessings for the entire Klal Yisroel! ❧

<sup>1</sup> Areas of the head that extend beyond the natural hairline, such as the five areas listed above, do not have to be covered if the hair is removed by laser or other methods.

Happy Hanukkah



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