Chol HaMoed: No Expert Work

You may not do “expert” or “professional” work of certain types on *chol ha'moed*, and some types of expert craftsmen/women may not do their trades on *chol ha'moed*.

EXAMPLES

- You may sew or lay bricks or other such labors, but not if you are an expert or professional in those fields and you are doing expert work.
- Skilled writers and artists may not do their professional writing, calligraphy, or drawing (even for free!) on *chol ha'moed*. They may not do calligraphy or *sofer* work (*Torah*, *tefilin*, *mezuza*), but they may write normally.
- If you are not a professional writer or expert craftsman/artist, you may write on *chol ha'moed* but the preferred practice is to use a *shinu'i* --an altered method of writing, such as:
    - Using your other hand,
    - Holding the pen/pencil differently from normal, or
    - Writing diagonally across the paper.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com