Shalom Bayit: Non-Observant Parents and In-Laws

Ba'alei teshuva often have problems with issues of *kashrut* in their parents' homes. Pots, dishes, and utensils might not be *kosher* or *toveled*. Consult a *rabbi*. Questions of *bishul akum* (cooking that was done by a non-Jew) might apply to non-*shomer Shabbat* parents, but the custom is to be lenient.

If the parent's kitchen is known to be non-*kosher*, food must be prepared with care (see *How To Use a Non-Kosher Kitchen*). If the parents do not lie to their children, they may be trusted as to the source of food and its *kosher* status.

Since we may not eat from dishes or utensils that have not been *toveled* (immersed in a *mikva*), you may want to consider *toveling* your parents' dishes or utensils, or using disposable goods. In such cases, it is OK to use china that has not been toveled.

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