



LACE TOP WIGS: *A Further* ANALYSIS

From the very beginning of his leadership, the Rebbe strongly advocated for careful observance of the mitzvah of *Kisui Rosh*, which had unfortunately fallen away for many. The Rebbe specifically advocated for wearing a 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 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/front sheitels. Wanting to keep the mitzvah of *Kisui Rosh* in the most careful fashion, 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 Rabbonim in our community to provide halachic analysis and guidelines to present to the women of the larger Chabad community.

LINING

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

They differ in opinion regarding the opaqueness of the lining.

Some Rabbonim 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 Rabbonim 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 polyester lining¹ usually satisfies the halachic requirement; using two polyester linings is preferable.

It is best to consult with your own Rov/Mashpia as to which opinion to follow.

COVERAGE (FOR ALL SHEITELS)

Hair that extends beyond the natural hairline, including the list below, must be covered as well.²

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 Rabbonim 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.

May the careful observance of the mitzvah of Kisui Rosh draw down abundant blessings for the entire Klal Yisroel.

¹ Commonly used in 5784

² 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.