



The Objective of a Filter

5. A filter on the internet is not like a *hechsher* on food. It does not certify the internet as “kosher,” thereby making it completely acceptable to use at will. A filter is merely a “helper” to make it easier to protect ourselves from potential danger as much as possible. Even with a proper filter installed, we still have to remember the *halachos* and, if anything pops up that is against *halachah*, we must act according to *halachah*. One cannot say, “If my filter let it through, it must be okay.”

This can be compared to a person driving a car who comes to an intersection where there is a green light, signaling that he has the right to proceed. If he sees a car that is sitting in the intersection or coming toward him from the other lane, the driver understands that he can't go until that car gets out of his way. He can't say “If the light is green, I can go”, and barrel into the other car. He understands that the traffic light is only a signal to help him know when to drive, but he also has to pay attention and keep himself safe on his own. A filter works the same way. It helps to alleviate the danger of the internet to an extent, but it doesn't remove a person's responsibility for himself. He still must pay attention to ensure that he doesn't transgress any prohibitions.