

## Laws of *Bedikat Chametz* | *Biur-Bitul Chametz*

If one is at home for Yom Tov, the mitzvah of *Bedikat Chametz* (searching for chametz) is done on Tuesday night, April 4th, as soon as possible after nightfall (8:09pm this year). It is performed with a candle or flashlight, and 10 pieces of bread or other chametz (depending on your custom). The *bedikah* is preceded by this blessing (Koren Siddur p. 759<sup>1</sup>)

<i>Barukh atah A-do-nai Elo-hei-nu melekh ha'olam, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav, vetzivanu al biur chametz.</i>	Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy through God's commandments and has commanded us about the removal of leavened food.	בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בִּיעוּר חָמֵץ:
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When finished with the *bedikah*, one recites the night-time *Bitul* (nullification) formula.

<i>Kol chamira vechamia d'ika virshuti, dela hamiteih, udela vi'arteih, libateil v'lehevei hefkeir ke'afra de'ara.</i>	May all <i>chametz</i> or leaven that is in my possession, which I have not seen or removed, be annulled and deemed like the dust of the earth.	כָּל חֲמִירָא וְחֲמִיעָא דְאִיכָא בְּרִשּׁוּתִי, דְּלֹא חֲמִיתִיהּ, וְדְלֹא בְּעִרְתִּיהּ, לְבָטֵל וְלִהְיוּ הֶפְקֵר כְּעֶפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.
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After the *Bedikah*, all *chametz* that remains, whether to be eaten tomorrow, to be sold or to be destroyed, should be clearly delineated or made inaccessible.

On Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 5th, one may eat *chametz* until the end of the 4th hour (10:50am this year). The *chametz* must be burned and nullified by the end of the 5th halakhic hour of the day (11:54am this year). The formula for the *bitul* is below:

<i>Kol chamira vechamia d'ika virshuti, dechazitei u'dela chazitei, dechamitei u'dela hamiteih, devi'artei u'dela vi'arteih, libateil v'lehevei hefkeir ke'afra de'ara.</i>	May all <i>chametz</i> or leaven that is in possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, be annulled and deemed like the dust of the earth.	כָּל חֲמִירָא וְחֲמִיעָא דְאִכָּא בְּרִשּׁוּתִי, דְּחִזַּתִּיהּ וְדְלֹא חִזַּתִּיהּ, דְּחִמַּתִּיהּ וְדְלֹא חִמַּתִּיהּ, דְּבִעַרְתִּיהּ וְדְלֹא בִעַרְתִּיהּ, לְבָטֵל וְלִהְיוּ הֶפְקֵר כְּעֶפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.
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<sup>1</sup> Most *haggadot* (and *siddurim*) have the liturgy and details.

## Traveling for Pesach | What to do at Home

Regardless of your destination and intent to return home during Pesach, your house should be in such a condition that if you had to return home, you would not encounter any *chametz*. Clean for any significant pieces of food, put any *chametz* away and mark the areas. Fill out a sale of *chametz* [form](#) for your home.

- 1) **If you will still be home on Tuesday night**, do *Bedikat Chametz* as normal. Do *Biur-Bitul Chametz* wherever you are on Wednesday.
- 2) **If you will already have left your home by Tuesday night**, do *Bedikat Chametz* on the **last** night you are at home, after nightfall, without a blessing. Do *Biur-Bitul Chametz* wherever you are on Wednesday. **Note:** if you leave your home more than 30 days before Pesach and do not plan on returning for Pesach, there is no need to have your home ready for Pesach or to do *Bedikah* in your home. However, you still need to sell your *chametz* and do a *Biur-Bitul*.

## Traveling for Pesach | What to do in your Pesach Location

1. **If you're in a hotel, or a rental for Pesach**, you need to do a *Bedikah* there.
2. **If you are a guest in someone's home:**
  - If the owners are present, you have no obligation to do a *Bedikah*.
  - If the owners are not there, you should do a *Bedikah* **without** a Bracha before the end of the 5th hour on Wednesday.
3. **If you'll be in your Pesach location by Tuesday night**, do the same *Bedikah* you would have done if you were at home: candle or flashlight, 10 pieces of bread, say the blessing beforehand, and *Bitul* formula afterward. Do *Biur* in that Pesach location the next morning as you would if you were home. If burning is a big inconvenience, flush it down the toilet. If throwing in the garbage, first spray some bleach on it to render it unfit to eat in case it won't be collected before Pesach.
4. **If you won't be in your Pesach location until Wednesday morning**, the question arises as to whether you have an obligation to do a *Bedikah* in that location. If your rental agreement began by Tuesday night and you had the keys by then, even if you were not in that location yet, you should check as soon as you arrive. If the rental begins on Wednesday AND you can reasonably assume the *Bedikah* was already done by the host, then you don't have to repeat the *Bedikah*.

**Note:** In all these cases, remember to say the second *kol chamira* nullification formula together with the *Biur* (all following what's in many *haggadot* in the beginning or in your siddur). Make sure to have your *chametz* at home in mind as well. Please feel free to contact a member of the clergy team [here](#) with any questions.