



## PESACH FAQ's

### GENERAL

**1. Can we use Zoom or FT technology to have a virtual Seder with our family?  
What if we are alone for Seder or we know someone else who is alone?**

A good guideline is whether we are talking about being SAD because we are missing out on our usual Seder family time or whether we are talking about DEPRESSION, severe LONELINESS or other underlying health dangers. Using technology such as Zoom should be reserved for people in danger of their health (emotional or physical) being compromised in any way. Please reach out to someone in the Rabbinic team if you would like to discuss this further.

**2. Can we order something that is non-KLP to be delivered after Pesach?**

- a) Make sure that the delivery date is indeed **after** Pesach, perhaps a day or two later just in case
- b) When selling your chametz, indicate in the Location section that there is something "in Amazon storage" or "in Amazon stores".

**3. Can a non-Jew (e.g. a nanny) bring their own chametz into my home on Pesach?**

While this can feel really odd to us, there is no Halakhic issue with a non-Jew bringing their own chametz into your home on Pesach. Best practice: find a separate place for them to eat and make sure that there are no crumbs or traces left. If they can substitute for kitniyot, that would be a preferable solution.

**4. How can I use my gas stove for cooking on Yomtov?**

You will need an existing flame (such as a Yahrtzeit candle). To light, turn the knob very quickly to bypass the "click-click". Turn on flame with pre-existing or other Halachik means. When you are done using it, you can turn off the supply of gas to the burner by turning the handle (again) very quickly to bypass the electric ignition.

NOTE: if an open flame is left on **Shabbat**, it needs to be covered with a "*blech*".



## 5. Do I need to throw or give away all food that contains Chametz before Pesach?

Some people have the custom of **not** selling something that is pure chametz (bread, crackers, cookies, pasta, etc.) If that is your custom, best to use up as much chametz as you can and give away the rest to needy people.

=> Those who have the custom to sell chametz should use these guidelines:

Certainly we can sell all unopened packages of food that contain chametz and items such as whiskey that have clear monetary value. There are also reliable sources that one may sell even open bags or packages of food that contain chametz.

=> **Important:** Any chametz that is sold should be clearly separated and marked in opaque bags (freezer) or behind a closed and taped closet door, or in a marked closed box. Locations containing chametz should be noted on the chametz sale form.

**Please note** that *kitniyot* is **not** chametz and does not need to be sold.

## 6. What is the status of Farro, Amaranth, Hemp Seed?

**Farro:** Farro is a variety of wheat, so it must be either gotten rid of or sold over Pesach and **cannot** be used.

**Amaranth:** This grain **may** be considered *kitniyot*, and therefore we do not use it on Pesach. It must be put away, but does not need to be sold.

**Hemp Seed:** While some consider hemp seed *kitniyot*, we follow the Star-K which considers it **non-kitniyot** and permissible for all to eat.

## 7. May people who eat *kitniyot* and those who do not use the same food utensils?

Yes! If there are some people eating *kitniyot* and some that are not in the same household or sharing a meal, they may use the **same** food utensils and dishes for *kitniyot* and non-*kitniyot* food. This includes cookware, dishware, and flatware. There is no need to wait 24 hours (*non ben-yomo*) in between using them for *kitniyot* and non-*kitniyot* food<sup>1</sup>. For more specific questions about *kitniyot*, please contact a member of our clergy team.

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<sup>1</sup> See [this](#) article which articulates the Halachic position of Rav Ovadia Yosef



## **KASHERING**

### **1. Do I have to wait 24 hours before kashering?**

Things that will be kashered through **fire**, or the heat from fire (like ovens and stove tops) do **not** need the 24 hour wait period as the absorbed taste of chametz is being obliterated.

Things that are kashered via **boiling water** (sinks, utensils, pots and pans, microwaves) do need the 24 hours because the absorbed taste is being nullified.

### **2. Can I use my SodaStream on Pesach?**

If it was only used for water, clean it very well and use new bottles. You can start with new bottles every year and use them afterwards or keep a set for Pesach!

### **3. I haven't used my Pesach milchig (dairy) frying pan since last Pesach. Can I use it now for parve?**

No, it must have been unused for a full calendar year for it to be "reset" back to its initial state and be used for a different food "gender". But this should be used only in a *bedi'eved* situation of great need.

### **4. I didn't kasher my blender pitcher before Pesach. Can I kasher it on Pesach?**

One can kasher by *libun* (firing, e.g. an oven) on Pesach but not by *hagalah* (immersing in boiling water) on Chol Hamoed. Therefore, it **cannot** be kashered on Pesach itself.

### **5. Can I use my regular ice cube trays and a freezer auto ice maker on Pesach?**

Absolutely as long as they only had water in them! Just clean them and inspect the ice cube trays and containers for crumbs.

### **6. Can food service silicone be kashere?**

Yes! For utensils, use the *hagalah* process. For silicone sandwich and storage bags, if there wasn't any **hot** chametz in it, simply clean very well. If you have any doubt about having hot chametz, use the *hagalah* process.



## **Kosher For Pesach Products Opened Before Pesach**

These examples will illustrate how to think about this issue:

1. **Separately** packaged items such as tea bags are no problem at all. Even a box of unwrapped tea bags should be fine if there is no chametz in there.
2. **Open coffee:** If you have only put in a clean, cold spoon, that is not a problem to use on Pesach. Good to wipe down the outside of the container.
3. **Sugar:** this depends on how you use it. It is often placed with the baking items and may have flour. In that case it is better to use an unopened package. If it only was used with a clean, cold utensil, see **coffee** above.
4. **Salt or other spices:** if it is poured over a steaming pot, it should not be used on Pesach as the steam has permeated the container. (For example, over a pot of pasta.) If the spice has only been used with cold, clean utensils, see **coffee** above.
5. **Olive oil:** same as salt, if just poured into a measuring cup or over a salad, no problem to use. If poured over a steaming pan, put it aside till after Pesach.
6. **KLP** crackers or cookies, nuts: generally we just reach in and grab some (with clean hands!). In that case, it can be used on Pesach. But if they could have been mixed with other items that are not KLP and then put back in the box, put them away for Pesach.

## **Need Pesach Supervision?**

1. **Brita filters:** No, clean well to use them and recommended to switch the filter before Pesach.
2. **Spices:** Whole, not ground are fine for Pesach use without KLP.  
Ex: salt (non-iodized only), cin sticks, whole peppercorns, cloves, etc. If bought before Pesach and they are 100% pure, they can be used. Some spices are *kitniyot* so check your family customs in this regard. Please make sure to only use high quality spices that are not adulterated. Iodized salt is a *kitniyot* problem because they use cornstarch to get the iodine to adhere to the salt.

3. **Dairy:** While not recommended by the major kashrut organizations (OU, CRC, Star-K), some rabbinic opinions allow for buying **plain** dairy products before Pesach and relying on *bittul* (nullification). This would include: milk, cream cheese (plain), butter, cottage cheese (plain), yogurt (plain), and all cheeses that have no other ingredients besides cheese and the curdling agent.  
**Note:** While during COVID there were special leniencies put into place for dairy products, the major organizations have rolled them back to pre-COVID guidelines.
4. **Lemon juice:** not all can be relied upon without KLP because they are made in an environment with *chametz* or *kitniyot*. The following items may be purchased for Pesach without KLP: Unsweetened juice concentrate: REALEMON Lemon REALIME Lime.
5. **Lactaid Products: Chewable** lactaid pills are a problem. Lactaid milk is not and lactaid pills that can be **swallowed** are not a problem.
6. **Almond milk & Coconut milk:** There are some *kitniyot* concerns in these products. Our general approach is therefore to buy them with KLP certification. In cases of **need**, whether financial or health related, if you buy kosher almond milk or coconut milk without KLP **before** Pesach, you can rely on the *bitul* and you can then use them on Pesach. But they **cannot** be bought on Pesach itself without KLP certification.
7. **Coconut Water:** It's really just the water from the inside of the coconut, which isn't *chametz* or *kitniyot*, and they don't do anything problematic to it. Fine without KLP.
8. **Frozen Orange Juice: Frozen** 100% pure orange concentrate does not require special certification. (All other juices – including grapefruit - require certification as enzymes are used in processing)
9. **Orange Juice:** liquid orange juice requires Pesach Certification.  
Tropicana Orange Juice **requires** Pesach certification.  
**Note:** Trader Joe's Orange Juice does **not** require Pesach certification
10. **Frozen Fruit:** without additives, syrup and vitamins, does **not** require KLP.
11. **Frozen Veggies:** always require KLP certification



12. **Fresh Raw Fish:** Fresh raw fish does not need KLP supervision. If buying on Passover, best to be extra particular to ask them to clean the knife first.
13. **Quinoa:** It is best to have a KLP supervision to ensure that no other grains are mixed in. However, if you buy (or have) quinoa that does not have KLP supervision and you would like to use it, here's what to do. Spill out the quinoa and make sure that there are no other grains inside. Separate them out and throw away if there are. Then you can close up the bag and keep it for Pesach. This can only be done **before Pesach**.
14. **Oils:** All **extra-virgin** olive oils and **virgin** coconut oils that are kosher do not need KLP certification.
15. **Nuts/Seeds:** unroasted, raw, unblanched, **without** additives (that may have corn) do **not** need KLP certification.
16. **Coffee/Tea:** Unflavored and regular coffees and teas do **not** need KLP certification. Flavored, decaf, and instant coffee/tea **do** need KLP supervision.  
**Note:** 1) This includes black, white, and green tea, including matcha. 2) Some teas are certified as kosher and **dairy**.
17. **Cosmetics:** In general these are not considered a problem regardless of the ingredients as lipstick is not eaten. However, if you are unsure because of the listing of chametz ingredients, use this site [www.ASKcRc.org](http://www.ASKcRc.org) to check and use [www.crc kosher.org/lipstick](http://www.crc kosher.org/lipstick) to check your lipstick.
18. **Raw Meat, Poultry, Fish:** All raw and unprocessed meat, poultry, and fish can be bought before Pesach without KLP supervision and rely on *bittul* for any minute amounts of chametz. This includes ground meat and ground poultry as well.  
**Note:** Raw fish may be bought without Rabbinic supervision year-long; check for a clean knife and clean cutting board. If you're not sure that it was 100% clean, rinse the cut fish very well.