

Young Israel of East Northport

PESACH GUIDE

2019 / 5779

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April 2019 / Nissan 5779

Dear Members and Friends,

As we anticipate the holiday of Pesach with much excitement and enthusiasm there is so much to prepare to insure a proper “kosher Pesach” is enjoyed by all. In this guide, please find directions for koshering your kitchen (from sinks, ovens, stoves, countertops, etc.), selling chametz, laws of the search for chametz, directions for seder night, and much more. Please **do not hesitate** to contact me at any point before or during the holiday if you have any questions.

The Netziv writes that the holiday of pesach is overflowing with so many mitzvos. Almost the entire 5th volume of Mishna Berura is devoted to the various laws and commandments of this holiday. We start with ridding our homes of all chametz, searching for chametz, buying proper matzos, drinking four cups of wine, maror, and so much more. One can attain such a high level and achieve real happiness through accomplishing all the mitzvos. There is also a worry so many people have that maybe I didn't do enough. There might be a few crumbs left that I failed to see, perhaps the matzos were not baked perfectly, and so on. This mindset can impede on the individual's happiness and observance of the mitzvos. The Netziv says one should rest assure that if effort was put in and you did everything you can, one must be **happy** and joyous on the holiday and not worry at all. We can trust that G-d will do the rest.

It is so important for all of us to take this to heart and enjoy this special holiday. It is a time to reflect on a past redemption and pray to Hashem that we see the ultimate redemption speedily in our days.

The Rebbetzin and I wish all our dear members and friends a *Chag Kosher V'sameach* and a most joyous and meaningful Pesach.

Rabbi Yosef loewy

Much of this guide is based upon discourses given by Rabbi Bezalel Rudinsky: I thank my dear friend Heshy Friedman for typing up the first part of this guide and various other segments of this guide as well.

Part 1: How to Kasher my kitchen?

General Kashering Concepts

- Anything that is being Kasherred must be thoroughly cleaned prior to Kashering.
- An item which will be Kasherred cannot be used with heat within 24 hours of Kashering.
 - The term *hagala* means koshering the item in a pot of boiling hot water. *Libun* means heating the item that is in need of koshering till a point that it gets red / “white” hot.
- Hagala only suffices for cooking utensils used for cooking; items used on the fire require Libun.

Ovens and Cooking Appliances

- Self-cleaning ovens can be Kasherred by running the oven through the self-clean cycle.
- Non self-cleaning ovens can be Kasherred by fully cleaning the insides, preferably with Easy-Off, and then running the oven on the highest cycle (500 degrees) for an hour.
- Stove grates can be Kasherred by placing them inside a self-cleaning oven, or by cleaning them and putting the fire on the highest setting until they are red hot. The latter process should not take more than 20 minutes.
- Enamel stovetops cannot be Kasherred and should therefore be covered with foil.
- Oven knobs should be perfectly cleaned or covered. Oven hoods and exhaust fans do not require Kashering, though they should be thoroughly cleaned.
- Microwaves are generally used with open food throughout the year, and therefore should not be Kasherred for Pesach due to possible splatter on the walls.
- If a microwave was only used with covered food during the year, it can be Kasherred by heating up water until it produces steam that fills the entire microwave. Trays need to be removed or covered.
- Warming drawers cannot be Kasherred and should only be used when designated for Pesach.

Hagalah- Kashering in a pot of boiling water:

- Metal sinks can be Kasherred through Hagalah by pouring boiling water over the entire surface.
- Porcelain sinks cannot be Kasherred; inserts are recommended.
- Faucets do not need to be Kasherred, they just need to be cleaned.
- Granite, marble, and stainless steel countertops can be Kasherred through Hagalah by pouring boiling water over the entire surface.
- When doing Hagalah, the water needs to be boiling, and the pouring cannot have any interruption in the stream.
- Hagalah on sinks and countertops requires that **every area** have direct contact with the poured water; contact through water that spreads afterwards does **not** suffice.
- Hagalah on sinks and countertops requires that they not be used with hot within 24 hours. Additionally, the pot or kettle being used for pouring needs to be Kosher for Pesach, or not used within 24 hours prior to Kashering.
- There is a debate whether Formica or quartz composite (i.e. Silestone) can be Kasherred. One should cover them entirely instead of koshering them.
- Teflon pots and pans, and utensils with any plastic, are generally considered non-Kasherred.
- Glassware may not be Kasherred according to Ashkenazic custom.
- Items generally used for cold such as silver Kiddush cups may be used with a thorough cleaning.

However, the prevalent custom is to do Hagala on Kiddush cups.

- Tablecloths washed in a washing machine can be used on Pesach.

General Kitchen Guidelines

- Refrigerator and freezer shelves should be scrubbed clean very well. The prevalent custom is to line the shelves as well.
- Refrigerator handles, oven handles, and the like do not need to be covered, but should be thoroughly cleaned.
- Refrigerator gaskets do not need to be cleaned.
- Non-Kasherred surfaces that have contact with food during the year need to be covered.

- Appliances that generally don't have direct contact with food and are not used for anything hot, such as can openers and corkscrews can be used on Pesach if they are thoroughly cleaned.
- Cabinets that are going to be used to store food or items used with food on Pesach should be cleaned and lined.
- Cold water coolers need to be thoroughly cleaned, after which they may be used on Pesach.
- Hot water coolers and urns may be used if they are thoroughly cleaned and were not used for Chametz during the year.
- Hot water coolers used for Chametz (i.e. oatmeal) during the year should be avoided on Pesach.
- Paper goods and Styrofoam cups should preferably be purchased prior to Pesach, since they may have minute starch residue.

Medications, Cosmetics, and Other Products

- Medications in tablet form without any flavor do not present any problem regarding Chametz. However, it is best to try to get a brand that is approved for Pesach when possible.
- Liquid and chewable medications that are not on an approved list may contain Chametz, and should only be used under the direction of a doctor and Rabbi. (Do not discontinue use of any medication without professional consultation.)
- Kitniyos ingredients do not present a problem regarding medication.
- Vitamins and supplements require a valid Pesach certification.
- In general, cosmetics do not present any problem regarding Pesach. An exception is lipstick, which should be on an approved Pesach list. An approved lipstick that was used during the year should have the top layer removed for Pesach use.
- Shampoos, soaps, moisturizers, and deodorants are generally not a problem; however, products such as lotions applied to the skin should be avoided if they contain Chametz ingredients.
- Perfumes, spray deodorants, shoe polish, and similar products are not fit for human or animal consumption, and therefore not a problem to keep and use on Pesach. However, they should be purchased prior to Pesach should they contain Chametz ingredients.

- Any item that goes in the mouth, such as mouthwash and toothpaste, needs to be on an approved Pesach list. (Both the Stark K and OU have excellent reference lists.)

MECHIRAS CHAMETZ / SALE OF CHAMETZ:

The sale must be proper, legal, and in accordance with Jewish law. One should appoint the Rabbi as their agent to properly sell the chametz. It is preferable to see the rabbi in person to sell the chametz. If one has extenuating circumstances and cannot come, please call me and we will work something out. I will be available during the following times to sell your chametz:

Thursday, April 11: 8:00 – 8:30 pm

Sunday, April 14- 9:30 – 10:15 am & 6:15 – 7:15 pm

Wednesday, April 17- 8:45 – 9:45 pm

If you are not able to make it at any of the above times, please call me and we will arrange a different time at your convenience.

The chametz that is sold to the non Jew must be stored in a designated place and covered. If you are designating cabinets or closets for your chametz, they should be tied or taped shut. It is preferable to put the chametz in a sealed container in a room that you will not be accessing during Pesach.

MAOS CHITTIM / MONEY FOR THE POOR:

As we are well aware, the expenses for Pesach are quite high and we must remember the less fortunate at this time as well to insure they have all necessities for the Yom Tov. There is a special mitzvah to give extra charity before Pesach for this reason. Please give this money to the Rabbi as soon as possible to make sure that every Jew has what they need for Yom Tov.

BEDIKAS CHAMETZ / SEARCH OF CHAMETZ:

The search will take place this year on Thursday night, April 18th and should be done after the emergence of 3 stars which is **8:18 pm**.

The proper way to do the search is by thoroughly going through the house, and feeling confident that the end of the search that all rooms were properly checked.

- One only needs to check places where there is a possibility for Chametz to have been in that area. Areas that one does not generally enter with Chametz, such as attics or crawl spaces, need not be checked unless there is a reason for suspicion.
- When young children are present in a home, any area where a child can place Chametz should be checked.

- One should check pockets of their clothing as part of the Bedika process. However, clothing washed in a washing machine need not be checked if they have not been worn since washing.

- Liquids such as detergents or bleach may be poured over an area that contains visible Chametz

that is out of reach.

- Books do not need to be checked unless they will be brought to the table on Pesach, and have been used in the vicinity of food during the year.

- Cars should be checked after checking one's home.

- If one has several locations to check, the Brocha for the search is made only upon the checking of the first location, even if travel will be required between the different locations.

- If one works locally and is not selling his work office, the office should be checked after the Bedika of their home is complete.

- If one travels out of the local vicinity to work, the work office should be checked prior to leaving work the day of Bedikas Chametz (or earlier if they are going away.)

BIUR CHAMETZ / BURNING OF CHAMETZ:

Any chametz found during the search should be brought to the shul where the burning will take place. All chametz must be destroyed by Friday morning, April 19th at 11:45 am.

BITUL CHAMETZ / NULLIFICATION OF CHAMETZ:

One must remember to say the paragraph nullifying their chametz BOTH by night after the search and in the morning before 11:45 am.

TAANIS BECHORIM / FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN:

All firstborn must fast on Erev Pesach unless they attend a siyum or other *seudas mitzvah*. The Rabbi will be making a siyum in the shul following the 6:45 Shachris on Friday morning.

THE SEDER:

At the seder, each person is supposed to feel as if he or she left Egypt. The seder night has several symbols of slavery and freedom to illustrate the story of our exodus. Each time we perform a mitzvah that symbolizes freedom, we lean to the left.

Mitzvos of Seder Night:

1. Drink four cups of wine or if one cannot drink wine substitute for grape juice.
2. Tell the story of our Exodus from Egypt
3. Eating Matzah

4. Eating Marror (bitter herbs)
5. Reclining
6. Eating the Afikoman
7. Hallel

In order to properly fulfill these mitzvos, there is a minimum amount you must consume:

FOUR CUPS OF WINE: One should drink at least 3.3 fluid ounces. On the first night which is Shabbos, the first cup which is kiddush is Biblical and the larger amount of 4.5 ounces is preferable. Majority of the cup should be consumed. A large cup should not be used to avoid having to drink more than necessary.

MATZAH: For the mitzvah of *motzi matzah* and *afikoman* one should eat a piece of matzah which is 7 X 6.5 inches. For *korech*, one should take a piece that measures 7 X 4 inches.

MARROR: If one is using romaine lettuce leaves, they should have enough leaves to cover 8 X 10 inches. If one is using romaine lettuce stalks, one should have 3 X 5 inches.

For both *matzah* and *marror*, one should try to eat the proper amount within 4 minutes. If one absolutely cannot eat it in that amount of time up to 9 minutes is allotted.

One should not talk from after washing their hands for *motzi matzah* till after the *korech* sandwich.

לשנה הבאה בירושלים!