



# SUKKOS GUIDELINES 5782 – 2021

**Monday, September 20th is the first night of Sukkos. Here are the guidelines for the proper fulfillment of the Mitzvah of Sukkah, and what to do in case of rain. . .**

1. During Sukkos, one should strive to do all eating and drinking in the sukkah.
2. Non-bread and foods that do not consist of wheat, barley, rye, spelt, oats and drinks may be eaten outside of the sukkah.
3. Whenever one eats in the sukkah, food which consists of an egg-size piece of bread, cakes, cookies, etc., besides the regular blessing, one should recite the blessing Laishaiv B'Sukah (See ArtScroll Siddur page 492, grey box at bottom of page for full blessing).
4. The Mitzvah of Sukkah is unique in that if one is experiencing pain or discomfort, generally, one is absolved from the Mitzvah of the Sukkah. Therefore:
5. Throughout Sukkos (with the exception of the first two nights) if it rains to the point where the abundance of raindrops would make it difficult to eat, one may eat his meal including bread, etc. outside of the sukkah.
6. If it started to rain after one began eating and one went into the house, one may finish the meal in the house, even if it stops raining.
7. Likewise, if one began the meal in the house due to rain in the sukkah, one may complete the meal in the house.
- 8. On the first night Sukkos, September 20, if it rains, the rules are different:**
  - It is obligatory to eat at least a piece of bread or challah in the sukkah, even if it is raining, after dark which is after 7:04 p.m.
  - If one has recited Kiddush and eaten challah in the sukkah, before it starts to rain, one may go into the house and conclude the meal.
  - If it is 7:04 p.m. and the rain falling into the sukkah is strong enough to make it difficult to eat, it is preferable to wait awhile, with the hope that the rain will stop. The suggested wait time is an hour or two. However, one needs to use his discretion and if the family and guests are hungry and waiting will be difficult, then less wait time will be OK.
  - If rain persists, go into the sukkah even while it is raining and say Kiddush, wash and eat at least a piece of bread or Challah. The hand washing and Hamotzi blessings are said, the Laishaiv B'sukah is omitted.
  - If the rain continues, it is praiseworthy to stay up and check to see if it stops raining until halachic midnight (12:16 a.m.).
  - If it stops raining before that, one should wash again, go into the sukkah, recite the Blessing on Bread and the Laishaiv B'Sukah blessing and eat bread or challah and of course, bench (grace after meals) again.
- 9. In the event that it is raining at 7:04 p.m. on the second night (Tuesday night) the procedure is slightly different than the first night:**
  - Wait briefly to see if the rain stops and...
  - If the rain has not stopped, make Kiddush, and Hamotzi and eat the Yom Tov meal in the house first and then at the end of the meal eat Challah or bread in the sukkah.
  - If it stops raining before retiring to sleep, go back into the sukkah, wash again, and recite the appropriate blessings, and eat bread or challah and of course, bench (grace after meals) again.

**Please do not hesitate to call Rabbi Becker at (520) 747-7780 if you have any questions or need clarification.**