

IS IT REAL CHAMETZ?

GUIDE TO SELLING “REAL” CHAMETZ BEFORE PESACH - Reprinted with permission from the Star-K

Although להלכה, any chametz may be sold before Pesach, there are pious individuals who do not sell “real” chametz. But rather, they give it away, burn it, or eat it before Pesach. How does one define “real” chametz? A food for which there is an *issur* of *אמצא דאורייתא* (there is a Torah prohibition of ownership on Pesach) is “real” chametz. This includes all items that are *חמץ גמור*, real chametz (bread, cake, pretzels, pasta, etc.). It should be noted that people who do not sell real chametz may purchase real chametz from a Jewish owned store that sold their chametz. However, *תערובת חמץ* where the *חיוב ביעור* (obligation to burn) is only *מדרבנן* (rabbinic), or at least according to some opinions only *מדרבנן*, is not *חמץ גמור*. In addition, *ספק חמץ* medications and non-edible items, as well as products processed on chametz equipment, are not considered to be *חמץ גמור*. These products are sold before Pesach even by individuals who are stringent not to sell *חמץ גמור*. Many individuals who do not sell *חמץ גמור* will sell alcoholic beverages before Pesach. Each family should follow their custom. The following chart offers guidelines as to which products are considered “real” chametz. *חמץ גמור* means it is “real” chametz. Pious individuals customarily do not sell these products before Pesach. Rather, they either consume it, burn it, or give it away as a gift to a gentile before Pesach. Not *חמץ גמור* indicates the product is not “real” chametz. Even pious individuals will generally sell such products to a gentile before Pesach. (Where indicated, some products may even remain in one’s possession during Pesach, and a sale is not required.)

PRODUCT	STATUS
Barley (if pearled, raw and packaged)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Beer	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Bread	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Cake and Cookies	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Cake mixes (dry)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Cereal with primary ingredient of wheat, oats or barley	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Chametz content is more than a <i>k'zayis</i> . The chametz can be eaten in a time span of <i>k'dai achilas pras</i> ² (e.g., box of Froot Loops cereal)	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Chametz content is more than a <i>k'zayis</i> . The chametz cannot be eaten <i>b'kdai achilas pras</i> ² (e.g., box of Cap 'N Crunch cereal)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Chametz content in entire package is less than a <i>k'zayis</i> but is greater than 1/60 of the product (e.g., Corn Flakes cereal)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Chametz content is less than 1/60 of the product	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁴
Chametz Nokshe (e.g., chametz glue)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ³
Chametz products non-edible even for canine consumption (<i>nifsal mayachilas kelev</i>)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ³
Condiments containing vinegar (e.g., ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, pickles)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁵
Cooked on chametz equipment (not during Pesach) but contains no chametz in the product	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁵
Corn Flakes (even if contains malt flavor)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁴
Cosmetics	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁴
Cream of Wheat	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Couscous	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Detergents	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁴
Extracts	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Farfel	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Flour (including whole wheat flour or if contains malted barley)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ⁶
Food Coloring	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Gefilte Fish (even if contains <i>matzah</i> meal & is not KFP as long as the label doesn't state chametz content)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Ketchup	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Kitniyos	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i> ³
Licorice	<i>חמץ גמור</i>
Product containing malt extract (e.g., Rice Krispies)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Maltodextrin / Maltose (in product)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
<i>Matzah</i> & <i>Matzah Meal</i> (not certified for Pesach - label does not state chametz)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Mayonnaise	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Medicine containing chametz	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Modified food starch (from unknown sources)	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>
Mustard	Not <i>חמץ גמור</i>

PRODUCT	STATUS
Oatmeal (Instant, Regular, Baby)	חמץ גמור
Pasta	חמץ גמור
Pickles	Not חמץ גמור
Pretzels	חמץ גמור
Rice Krispies (even if contains malt flavor)	Not חמץ גמור
Rolled Oats	חמץ גמור
Salad Dressing	Not חמץ גמור
Vanillin and Ethyl Vanillin	Not חמץ גמור
Vinegar (from unknown sources)	Not חמץ גמור
Vitamin tablets containing <i>chametz</i>	Not חמץ גמור
Wheat germ	Not חמץ גמור
Wheat gluten/Wheat protein (unknown amount in product)	חמץ גמור
Whiskey ⁷	Follow family custom ¹
Yeast (Baker's), yeast extract	Not Chametz ³
Yeast (Brewer's)	חמץ גמור

1. Some individuals sell this *chametz*, others do not. One should follow his family custom.
2. *K'dai achilas pras* is the amount of time it takes to eat the volume of buttered bread equaling 3-4 eggs (approximately 2-4 minutes). For example, if one eats a bowl of Froot Loops cereal, he will eat a *k'zayis* of *chametz* within 2-4 minutes. However, if one eats Cap 'N Crunch cereal, he will not eat a *k'zayis* of *chametz* fast enough since the amount of *chametz* in Cap 'N Crunch cereal is relatively minimal.
3. These products are not *chametz*. One may even retain possession on Pesach. Sale is not necessary (מותר בהנאה בפסח). The product may not be eaten on Pesach.
4. These products are not *chametz*. One may even retain possession on Pesach. Sale is not necessary (מותר בהנאה בפסח).
5. One may retain possession of these products on Pesach. Sale is not necessary. They may not be eaten on Pesach.
6. This applies to flour that is not an ingredient in a product (e.g., flour sold in bags). However, as an ingredient in a product it is usually חמץ גמור.
7. This includes bourbon, rye, liquors, gin, scotch & whiskey (unless they are certified for Pesach or are known to be from non-*chametz* sources).

KITNIYOS

Kitniyos and Other Products Customarily Not Eaten on Pesach

- Anise
- Ascorbic Acid (possibly *chametz*)
- Beans (including Green Beans, Edamame, etc.)
- Bean Sprouts
- BHA (in corn oil)
- BHT (in corn oil)
- Buckwheat (Kasha)
- Calcium Ascorbate (possibly *chametz*)
- Canola Oil (Rapeseed)
- Chickpeas
- Citric Acid (possibly *chametz*)
- Confectioners' Sugar (possibly *chametz*, look for KFP symbol)
- Corn
- Cumin
- Dextrose (possibly *chametz*)
- Fennel
- Fenugreek
- Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein (possibly *chametz*)
- Isolated Soy Protein
- Isomerized Syrup
- Lecithin
- Lentils
- Maltodextrin (possibly *chametz*)
- Millet
- Mustard: Flour, Prepared, Seeds
- Peanuts
- Peas
- Rice
- Seeds: Caraway, Poppy, Sesame, Sunflower
- Sodium Erythorbate
- Sodium Citrate (possibly *chametz*)
- Sorbitan
- Soy Beans
- Starch (possibly *chametz*)
- String Beans
- Tofu
- Vitamin C (possibly *chametz*)