

## HALACHOS FOR THE THREE WEEKS

1. Shiva Asar B'Tammuz marks the beginning of the three weeks and as we progress further into the period, the intensity of mourning also increases.
2. Weddings are not performed during this time.
3. Playing musical instruments and listening to music is prohibited. Music practice is permitted until Rosh Chodesh Av. Singing niggunim (songs) without instruments is also permitted.
4. One should refrain from saying the bracha of shehechyanu during the three weeks. This includes making the bracha on new clothes and fruits. One should, therefore, not wear any new clothes or eat any new fruits during this period. However, on the Shabbosos during this time, it is permissible. New clothes that don't require a shehechyanu (e.g., shoes, socks, undergarments, etc.) may be worn until Rosh Chodesh Av. Purchasing new clothes during this time is also permitted.
5. One should not get a haircut or shave during the three weeks. This prohibition includes cutting the hair of a child. It is permissible for a woman to shave her legs during this time.
6. Someone who must be clean-shaven or have a well-trimmed beard for work may shave during the three weeks. Regarding the week of Tisha B'Av, a shaila should be asked.
7. Cutting fingernails or toenails is permitted except for the week of Tisha B'Av.

## HALACHOS FOR THE NINE DAYS

1. Since the nine days have historically been filled with misfortune, if someone has a lawsuit with a non-Jew, it should be delayed until Rosh Chodesh Elul, or at least until after Tisha B'Av.
2. Remodeling, decorating, painting, wallpapering and general construction are questionable. Each situation should be judged on an individual basis.
3. Planting flowers or trees is prohibited.
4. One should not eat meat or drink wine during the nine days. On Shabbos or at a seudas mitzvah (bris milah, pidyon haben) it is permitted.
5. If someone finishes a masechta of gemara, a seder of mishnayot, or a sefer in Tanach with commentators, a siyum can be made and meat and wine may be served.
6. The prohibition against eating meat includes any fowl or even food cooked with meat. Food cooked in a meat pot without meat is permitted.
7. For Motzei Shabbos, the minhag is to say havdalah on a cup of wine and have a child (at least 5 or 6 years old) drink the wine. If there are no children, an adult may drink the wine. Some have the minhag to use beer for havdalah during the nine days.
8. It is prohibited to wash clothing during the nine days. This prohibition includes linens, towels and tablecloths.
9. Washing children's clothing (until the age of bar/bas mitzvah) is permitted.
10. Wearing freshly pressed clothing (i.e., from the cleaners) is prohibited. According to most poskim, this prohibition applies to freshly machine washed clothing (i.e., shirts and pants) as well. If however, one wore them for a short period of time before Rosh Chodesh, it is permissible to wear them.
11. This prohibition does not apply to undergarments.
12. Freshly pressed clothing may be worn on Shabbos.
13. It is prohibited to wear any type of new clothing, even on Shabbos. Likewise, it is prohibited to purchase any type of new garment during the nine days.
14. Buying non-leather shoes to be worn on Tisha B'Av is permitted.
15. Swimming, bathing or showering for pleasure is prohibited during the nine days. For medical reasons all of these activities are permitted.
16. It is permissible to shower or bathe to remove dirt or perspiration provided that the water is not as hot as usual and one does not linger any longer than necessary.
17. Bathing for a mitzvah (such as erev Shabbos or a woman going to the mikvah) is permitted.

## HALACHOS FOR TISHA B'AV

1. Washing any part of the body for pleasure, even in cold water, is prohibited. Therefore, using mouth wash or brushing one's teeth is prohibited on Tisha B'Av.
2. When washing hands (negel vasser) in the morning (three times on each hand alternately) the water should go no further than the ends of the fingers. After drying the hands, moisture that remains may be rubbed over the eyes.
3. Likewise, washing after the bathroom or for davening should only be done to the end of the fingers.
4. Washing dirt off any part of the body is permitted, but one must be careful to wash only that area.
5. Taking medicine without water is permitted.
6. Pregnant and nursing women must fast. If they should begin to not feel well, a question should be asked.
7. It is prohibited to wear leather shoes even if they're only partially leather.
8. One may not learn Torah on Tisha B'Av except for those sections which are relevant to the day.
9. On Tisha B'Av we are all like mourners and therefore we don't greet one another or even say "good morning".
10. When we go to sleep, we try to limit our comfort (e.g. using less pillows than normal). We sit only on low stools or the floor until mid-day (12:57 pm).

## HALACHOS FOR MOTZEI TISHA B'AV

1. Since the fast begins Motzei Shabbos and havdala is not recited, the time for its recital is Sunday evening, after maariv. Havdala consists of the bracha borei pri hagafen on wine and the bracha of hamavdil bein kodesh lechol. Besamim and candles are not used and their brachos are not recited.
2. Since this year the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av will fall on Shabbos and the fast will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Av, all of the restrictions for the 9 days, such as music, haircutting, washing clothing, are permissible immediately after havdala. However, we still refrain from eating meat and drinking wine the entire evening. But on Monday morning, as soon as the day begins, they also become permissible.