

**PREPARING FOR PASSOVER**  
**April 19 – April 27, 2019 / 15-22 Nisan 5779**  
**by Rabbi Shalom Kantor**

*If you have questions, please contact Rabbi Kantor at [rabskantor@bnaimoshe.org](mailto:rabskantor@bnaimoshe.org).*

### **Preparing the Kitchen**

The kitchen should be completely prepared for Pesach by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 19. Preparation involves **FOOD**, **UTENSILS** and **APPLIANCES**.

#### **FOOD**

The following is a brief summary of the guidelines of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. For complete details go online to: <http://rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-law/kashrut/pesach-guide>

Prior to the onset of the holiday, all opened chametz (leavened products of wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt), should be eaten or given to the needy. All unopened chametz should be placed in an "out of the way" cabinet, and then sold with the form on the second page or online. The only exception is bottles of expensive alcohol which must be put away.

The following items require a "Kosher for Pesach" label: baked goods, matza and matza products, pop, juices, decaffeinated and/or flavored coffees and teas, herbal teas, liquor, wine, vinegar, oils, canned tuna, dried fruits, frozen vegetables and processed foods, candy, chocolate milk, ice cream, yogurt, cheeses and butter.

The following items do not require a "Kosher for Pesach" label if using an unopened package purchased prior to Pesach: white milk, Tropicana 100% orange juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar, quinoa. Any of these products purchased during Pesach require a "Kosher for Pesach" label.

The following items do not require a "Kosher for Pesach" label: fresh fruits and vegetables; eggs; fresh or frozen kosher meat (except chopped meat); whole spices; pure tea leaves or bags; regular unflavored coffee; baking soda.

#### **Utensils**

Now is the time to take inventory of your Pesach cooking and eating utensils. It is preferable to have completely separate utensils for this holiday, separated further between milk and meat. You may find it necessary to purchase some new items. If you have no other choice, you may need to kasher some chametz utensils to be used on Pesach. The kashering process is the same as when newly kashering a kitchen.

**Earthenware** may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used.

**Wholly Metal** items used in or on a fire (spit, broiler, non-Teflon pans) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed, sit for 24 hours unused, and then made as hot as possible, preferably glowing red hot.

Those used for cooking or eating (pots, silverware) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned, sit for 24 hours unused, and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots too big to immerse in a larger vessel should have water boiled in them that will overflow the rim. Utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. All Teflon pans and baking utensils cannot be kashered.

**Glassware** may be kashered in one of two ways:

1. Soak the items in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours; or
2. Scrub the items and clean in a Passover-ready dishwasher.

NON-PESACH UTENSILS should be put away, out-of-sight, during the holiday so as to prevent accidental use.

#### **Appliances**

Unless you are blessed with a separate Pesach kitchen, you will need to kasher your oven, stove, dishwasher, sink and clean your refrigerator prior to the onset of the holiday.

**Ovens and Stoves** should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. They should be heated at the highest setting for one hour. Use the broiler setting, if available. Self-cleaning ovens should be put through the self-cleaning cycle and then thoroughly wiped out.

**Microwave Ovens**, which do not have a browning element, may be kashered. After a thorough cleaning, a cup of water should be placed in the oven and "cooked" until the water disappears.

**Dishwashers**, after being thoroughly cleaned, including the trap, and left unused for 24 hours, may be kashered by running a full cycle with detergent.

**A Metal Sink** may be kashered by cleaning and pouring boiling water over it.

**A Porcelain Sink** should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

**Refrigerators** should be thoroughly cleaned, including shelves and drawers.

**Other electrical appliances** may be kashered only if all parts which come into contact with chametz are wholly metal and can be removed to be cleaned and immersed in boiling water.

**Tables and Counters** should be cleaned and covered. See the website of the Chicago Rabbinical Council (CRC)

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for a list of counter materials that can be kashered using boiling water.