

# PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

April 6 – April 13, 2023 / 15-22 Nisan 5783

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 Wednesday, April 5.**

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/pesah-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 page 11 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) for a list of counter materials that can be *kashered* using boiling water.

**Siyyum B'khorim** - The completion of a serious study of a full Jewish text in honor of the firstborn, is a ceremony that takes place this year on Wednesday, April 5, at our morning *minyan* which begins at 7:30 a.m. Firstborn children are obligated to fast before the first seder in gratitude for having been spared during the last plague. This fast can be waived by attending a completion of a serious study of a Jewish text, or “*siyyum*,” which is followed by a festive breakfast. **This year Rabbi Pachter will complete a study of the Talmudic tractate *Brachot*. Please join us for this festive occasion.**

### **Returning to Chametz**

One may resume owning and eating *chametz* on Thursday, April 13, at 9:15 p.m.

**Bedikat Chametz** - The search for leaven usually occurs the night prior to the onset of *Pesach*. The search will be performed the evening of Tuesday, April 4. Prior to evening the home should be thoroughly cleaned. All known *chametz* should already be collected and set aside. After sunset, approximately 8:30 p.m., the family recites the *b'rakha* (found at the beginning of most *haggadot*) and conducts a final search for any remaining *chametz*. Some families strategically deposit small pieces of bread in various places in the home in advance of the search. Special kits, containing the customary candle, feather and wooden spoon are available for purchase at local Jewish bookstores.

**Bi'ur Chametz** - The disposal of a few bits of remaining leaven, usually through burning, takes place this year on Wednesday, April 5, no later than 11 a.m. We will burn all *chametz* at B'nai Moshe after the *Siyyum* in the morning.

**Mekhirat Chametz** - The selling of leaven to a non-Jew prior to the onset of *Pesach* is required, so that we are able to leave unopened packages of *chametz* in our homes during the holiday. Without this release of ownership, we would be forbidden from eating such *chametz* after *Pesach*. We are commanded to rid our homes of as much *chametz* as possible. What remains must be stored in an “out of the way” location. Please return the form provided no later than Monday, April 3 at 12:00 p.m. so Rabbi Kantor can arrange for the selling of your *chametz*.

**Ma'ot Chittim** - These are donations which enable even the poorest in our community to acquire matza, wine, and all other Pesach needs. Donations to the B'nai Moshe *Ma'ot Chittim* Fund will be distributed to a number of worthwhile causes. Use the form provided and return to the shul as soon as possible but no later than Monday, April 3. **IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT RABBI KANTOR.**