



A Halakhic Guide for when Pesach begins on a Saturday Night

When Passover falls out on Saturday night, immediately following Shabbat, there are a number of ramifications in terms of pre-Passover preparations.

In brief: On Thursday night, we search for hametz. On Friday morning, we put aside the hametz that we will eat on Shabbat, and the rest of the hametz is burned. On Shabbat, we are careful to control the breadcrumbs -- i.e. we eat in a designated area. The Shabbat morning meal is eaten before 10:30 AM. We then remove from our premises any remaining hametz that is in our possession.

FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

The "fast of the firstborn" is usually held on Passover eve, but this year is moved ahead to Thursday. Those obligated to fast include a firstborn son, and the father of a first-born son who is too young to fast.

A person is permitted to break this fast if he is attending a Seudat Mitzvah – a meal following a specific mitzvah. It has become customary to schedule the completion of a Talmudic tractate (*siyum*) on this day, since those who join in the accompanying meal are exempted from fasting.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ - SEARCHING FOR HAMETZ

The search for hametz is held on Thursday evening. Aside from the timing, there is nothing different about this search compared to other years. We begin our search after nightfall which is at 8:06 PM in Ottawa. Before the search we recite the blessing of "Al biur hametz," and after the checking we verbally nullify the hametz (*bitul*). For the complete text and instructions for Bedikat Hametz please click here:

https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/117217/jewish/Search-for-Chametz.htm

BI'UR HAMETZ - DESTROYING THE HAMETZ

Hametz that will not be needed for Shabbat should be burned on Friday. This should be done in the morning, the same as every year, before 11:50 AM.

After Biur hametz you will NOT recite the "kol hamira" declaration, and will rather say that on Shabbat morning, as noted below.

EATING HAMETZ ON FRIDAY AND SHABBAT

Even after the time set for the burning of the hametz on Friday, it is permissible to eat hametz. However, in order that the hametz not be scattered, one must designate a place to eat it on Friday and Shabbat, and restrict it to that place.

One should only buy the amount of Shabbat Challah which one thinks will be totally consumed.

When it's time for *Hamotzi*, it is recommended to use disposable tableware as a precaution, and keep the bread on special disposable plates which will be disposed of immediately after consuming your *Lechem Mishneh*. Then proceed with your meals as normal.

For the crumbs that are left over on the plates where you had your bread, shake off the crumbs and any other leftover bread into the toilet and flush. You should do the same for any crumbs that may have fallen to the ground.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEDER

One should prepare all necessary items for the Seder before Shabbat, such as the roasted shank bone (*Zero'ah*), the salt water and haroset. The candles should be set up for Yom Tov in their holders (besides the ones needed for Shabbat). A fire should be lit before Shabbat, so that the Yom Tov and Havdallah lights can be kindled, and for cooking needs.

SHABBAT - PASSOVER EVE

At the conclusion of Shabbat morning services, one should go home right away to make kiddush, in order to eat the Shabbat day meal with Challah prior to the time one can no longer eat hametz, which is at 10:33 AM.

It is proper to eat meat, fish or fruit after mid-day on Shabbat, in order to fulfill *Seudah Shelishit* in the afternoon.

It is prohibited to prepare on Shabbat for Yom Tov. One should therefore not prepare the Seder table until after nightfall.

DISPOSING OF FINAL HAMETZ

Hametz that remains after the morning meal should be simply flushed down the toilet. This must be done before 11:50 AM.

One should then nullify the hametz (*bitul*) by saying the "Kol Hamira" text found here:

https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/117223/jewish/Burning-Chametz.htm

MINHAH

As in other years, some are accustomed to say the "Seder Korban Pesah" and portions of the Haggadah (from "Avadim Hayinu" until "I'khapper al kol avonotaynu").

SEDER EVENING

After nightfall, the standard Yom Tov prayers are said with the addition of "Vatodi'aynu" in the Amidah.

Anyone who did not say "Vatodi'aynu" needs to say "Barukh haMavdil bayn kodesh l'kodesh" before doing any labour that is forbidden on Shabbat but permitted on Yom Tov, such as lighting the Yom Tov candles or cooking for the Seder meal.

The order of the blessings during Kiddush is YaKNaHaZ: Wine ("Borei p'ri ha'gafen"), Kiddush ("Asher bahar banu"), Havdallah candle ("Borei me'orei ha'aish"), Havdalah ("Hamavdil bein kodesh l'kodesh") and "Sheheheyanu." No blessing is recited for spices.

The rest of the Seder continues as on other years.