

Kesher Israel Pesach Guide 2021/5781

Dear Congregants,

Last Pesach we all expected by now to be long done with Corona, but we find ourselves still in the grips of it. Despite the challenges, Pesach is doable. Cleaning does not have to be as stressful as we imagine. Kashering, though it takes some work does not have to be complicated. If anyone needs assistance affording or shopping for food or other items for Pesach we have dozens of fellow Kesherites who have come forward to assist, and we have funders who have come forward to help our members financially. Please do not hesitate at all to contact me for what you need. Our community is a generous and caring one, let us all be the big Jewish family we are!

Please scroll down for special instructions for this year in which Erev Pesach falls on Shabbat.

My blessings for a Pesach of health and joy,
Rabbi Hyim Shafner

Cleaning for Pesach

On Pesach one is not permitted to eat chametz (leaven) or to own it. We not only get rid of our chametz but we also make a declaration nullifying it and giving up our ownership of it and additionally we sell any chametz we own. So why clean for Pesach? The answer is twofold. 1. In order to remove any chametz that we might otherwise accidentally discover and be tempted to eat on Pesach, and 2. If we have chametz that we value perhaps our nullification will not have been wholehearted.

Thus one is only obligated to clean and rid one's house of any chametz one might be tempted to eat or chametz that might be important to us. This includes any chametz larger than a kizayis (the size of a large olive) but does not include crumbs under a couch or chametz in the garbage. For all of that our nullification (and sale) works fully.

Pockets, bags and backpacks should be checked for candy and other food, and places that might contain chametz should be checked. One need not search for chametz in places one never brings chametz. If you have children who might spread chametz around the house and car you should check in places they can access but you need not check in places they cannot. Any cabinets with a lot of chametz should just be taped closed and sold.

Garbage Pails: Outdoor garbage pails do not have to be cleaned of chametz since there is no fear that one will want to eat such chametz. If you have chametz in your personally owned garbage that is on your property be sure the cometz is not on top but covered by other garbage.

Toys: The only chametz on toys that we are concerned about on toys is chametz that children may eat on Pesach, or chametz which might end up in our food.

Vacuum Bags: Vacuum bags do not have to be emptied since there is no fear that you will want to eat that kind of chametz.

Cosmetics:

All varieties of blush, body soaps, conditioners, creams, eye shadow, eyeliner, face powder, foot powder, foundations, ink, lotions, mascara, nail polish, ointments, paint, shampoo, hand sanitizer, perfume, cologne, shaving lotions and deodorants are permitted for use on Pesach regardless of its ingredients.

Toothpaste and Mouthwash:

Though some permit any brand, it is preferable to use one that is chametz free, here is a list of some: <https://kosherquest.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/KIB-pesach-2021-ralphs2.pdf>

Medicine Guidelines:

Do not change or suspend any medications you are taking without medical consultation.

All pill medication – with or without *chametz* – that one swallows, is permitted.

Please consult Rabbi Shafner if you need to take vitamins or liquid or chewable medication on Pesach. Additionally the CRC, OU and others have lists online of chewable and liquid medicines which are free of chametz or those for which a question should be asked.

Here is one:

<https://www.star-k.org/articles/articles/seasonal/388/pesach-medication-the-halachos-lists/>

If you are checking the ingredients of a medicine or liquid cosmetic for chametz, the following ingredients are potential Chametz issues:

Amino Peptide Complex, Amp-Isostearoyl Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Avena Sativa Flour, Avena Sativa Kernel Protein, Barley Extract, Beta Glucan, Disodium Wheatgermido Peg-2 Sulfosuccinate, Hordeum Vulgare Extract, Hydrolyzed Wheat Gluten, Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein PgPropyl Silanetriol, Hydrolyzed Wheat Starch, Hydroxypropyltrimonium Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Oat Beta Glucan, Oat Extract, Oat Flour, Phytosphingosine Extract, Prolamine, Sodium Lauroyl Oat Amino Acids, Stearyldimoniumhydroxypropyl Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Triticum Vulgare, Triticum Vulgare Flour Lipids, Triticum Vulgare Germ Extract, Triticum Vulgare Germ Oil, Wheat Amino Acids, Wheat Bran Extract, Wheat Germ Extract, Wheat Germ Glycerides, Wheat Germanidopropyldimonium Hydroxypropyl Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein, Wheat Germ Oil, Wheat Protein, Wheat Sphingolipids.

Kashering Your Home for Passover

Ovens: Self-Cleaning Ovens: Run one self-cleaning cycle. Anything which is in the oven during self-cleaning is also kosher without any need for other cleaning, including racks. Non Self-Cleaning Ovens: Clean thoroughly or all food spots (discolorations which are part of the metal are ok). Be sure the oven has not been used in 24 hours. Heat the oven for one hour on its hottest baking temperature.

Stove Tops:

Electric-Clean well. Turn the burners on high for about 10 minutes.

Gas-Clean grates and place in oven when you kasher the oven. Another method is to cover each burner with heavy duty aluminum foil and run the burner on high for 5 minutes or until paper turns brown when touched to the metal surfaces. You can do each burner separately. For the spaces between the burners, clean them well with a cleaner. For Passover use cover the spaces with foil or a trivet.

Glass stove tops: Turn the burners on high for 15 minutes. The center of the stove top between the burners should be considered not kosher and when putting a pot on it put it on a trivet.

Microwaves: Clean thoroughly. Let sit unused for 24 hours. Make sure the glass plate is clean. Then boil a glass of water in the microwave for 15 minutes. For Passover cover the glass dish with a double layer of saran wrap. Ashkenazim generally do not kasher glass for Pesach.

Dishwashers: Clean thoroughly, making sure that all the racks and filters are clean, and pay special attention that the food catch is clean. Get rid of any rust. Let it sit unused for 24 hours. Run one cycle on highest setting with soap. Dishwashers can be kashered even if the racks are plastic.

Counters: for all except porcelain-Clean thoroughly. Let sit untouched by anything hot for 24 hours. Then pour boiling water over them. Or cover them. For porcelain-cover.

Refrigerator and freezer shelves, cabinets and other shelves: Clean thoroughly.

Sinks: Stainless steel or granite: Clean thoroughly including any rust on the drain. Let sit untouched by anything very hot for 24 hours. Then pour boiling water from a kashered stove and kettle all over it. Porcelain sinks: Clean thoroughly with a cleanser and use a tub or rack/mat. If you have only one sink, you may use it for cleaning dairy and meat simply by cleaning it from one to the other, and also having a separate meat and dairy dish tub and rack/mat that goes underneath the tub to raise it slightly from the surface of the sink.

Kashering pots, pans, dishes, grill tops and utensils: Frying pans used with oil which are not coated may be kashered by running them through a self cleaning oven cycle. Grill grates may also be kashered this way. Pots and pans, and utensils that are metal can be kashered by cleaning them thoroughly and immersing them completely in boiling water, or filling them with water, boiling it and making it overflow the lip of the pot a bit.

BBQ grills:

The cavity of the grill should be kashered in the following way: Charcoal grill- fill grill as you normally would, light coals and let burn out. Gas grill- close cover and run on high for 40 minutes.

To kasher the grill grates of both types - Place grates in self cleaning oven and run through self cleaning cycle or place grates between two layers of charcoal briquettes in a grill or aluminum pan. Light the briquettes and let them burn out.

Hot water urn- Fill with water, boil, let some water out the spout then pour out the water turning the pot so the water hits the inside top area where water might not have been.

Plastic and other materials: You can kasher any material except made from clay or porcelain. Plastic which is made to withstand heat is fine to kasher. Ashkenazim have a custom not to kasher glass for Pesach except in cases of great need.

Hot Plate- Clean and double cover with tin foil.

Instant Pot

Though any pot is in theory kasherable and the insert for the instant pot is easily kasherable, the top of the pot and the heating vessel are not easily kasherable due to many places on these which are not reachable for cleaning and the difficulty of kashering the instant pot's heating element. I recommend getting a new one for Pesach or at least a new top for Pesach and kashering the pot and

heating element.

Passover links:

List of Products which do not require Passover supervision:

<http://www.kosherphoenix.org/index.php/passover/>

This link has links to many Passover websites that may be helpful. For any questions or clarifications please contact Rabbi Shafner:

<https://www.kashrut.com/Passover/>

Fresh Fish: may be bought anywhere for Passover.

Frozen Fish: With nothing added, rinse thoroughly

Milk and Eggs: The long time custom is to buy milk and eggs before Passover, no hashgocha needed. If one is not able to or does not have room to store them eggs may be bought on Passover. Milk with Passover supervision may always be bought on Passover.

Orange Juice: 100% pure frozen orange juice or grapefruit juice, both from concentrate only, without added citric acid, vitamin C, sweeteners, additives or preservatives, acceptable without certification. All OU Frozen Orange and Grapefruit juice is acceptable without Passover supervision. Regular Juice should be bought with Passover supervision.

Machine Matza may be used for the Seder if it was made lishem mitzvah, for the sake of the mitzvah. All OU machine matza is made lishem mitzvah. Some poskim hold hand matza is better and some hold machine is better.

Open packages: Open packages of non food items such as tin foil or plastic bags are fine. Food packages one needs to judge whether any chametz could have entered the package.

Infants: GERBER (when bearing OU symbol) CARROTS, SQUASH - acceptable for Passover
GREEN BEANS, PEAS – kitniyot (but acceptable for infants)

Infants may be fed kitniot if needed, their bottles do not have to be kashered for Pesach, just wash bottles or dishes in the bathroom sink or a bucket in the kitchen sink.

Link to OU infant info lists: https://www.kashrut.com/Passover/pdf/OU_2021_Infant.pdf

Erev Pesach Which Falls on Shabbat

This year the day before Passover is Shabbat. This results in several changes to the usual erev Pesach routine.

Thursday March 25th

Fast of the Firstborn

Most years the fast of the first born takes place on Erev Pesach. This year since erev pesach is Shabbat and one is not allowed to fast on shabbat except for Yom kippur, the fast in theory would be moved to Friday, but since we try not to fast on Friday as it may negatively impact our shabbat, the fast is moved to Thursday. The custom of course is not to fast at all on Erev Pesach but instead to be

part of a siyum, the finishing of a tractate of Talmud. This great joy overrules the very minor fast of the firstborn and allows the firstborn to eat regularly. This year the Keshet Israel Daf Yomi group led by Dr. Alan Gersh will be making a siyum, a celebration, on their completion of tractate Pesachim. The siyum will be held after shacharit on Thursday March 25th at 7:45am and simulcast on www.keshet.org/zoom. Participation in a zoom siyum, especially this year when the fast has been moved to Thursday, is sufficient.

The Search for Chametz

The search for Chametz will take place on Thursday evening, March 25th after dark (7:53 pm). It is performed in the usual manner, by candle light or flashlight, preceded by the normal blessing and followed by the regular declaration of the nullification of Chametz.

Friday March 26th

Burning of Chametz

Friday the chametz is burned in the usual manner at the usual time as if it were Erev Pesach, this year before 12:11pm. However, since one may still eat Chametz throughout the day, since it is not actually Erev Pesach, as well as on Shabbat morning, some Chametz may be left over, and not burnt. Care must be taken that only enough Chametz be left such that it will be completely finished by on Shabbat morning, and it must be stored carefully so as not to spread throughout the house. The declaration of nullification which is usually recited at the time of burning the Chametz, is not recited on Friday but instead on Shabbat morning before 12:11pm.

Rabbi Shafner will be burning chametz in his backyard at 11:00AM. Feel free to bring your 10 pieces of chametz to burn. Please wear a mask and observe social distance.

Sale of Chametz

The sale of Chametz will take place on Friday morning. Please be sure to sign the authorization forms online by Tuesday, March 23 by clicking [HERE](#). Any Chametz left over after burning, which you are planning to use on Friday afternoon, or Shabbat morning, will not be included in the sale.

Kashering Dishes

All kashering of utensils for Pesach use must be completed before Shabbat. However, unlike normal years, this need not be completed by the morning, since the time when Chametz becomes prohibited is not until the next day. Nevertheless, the custom is to try to complete this kashering process by Friday morning at 12:11 this year in order not to distinguish the routine from 'normal' years.

Saturday March 27th

Shabbat Meals

Chametz will become forbidden to eat this year on shabbat day at 11:09am. One is permitted to eat chametz at the Friday night meal and at a Shabbat day meal until 11:09am. One must have at least two loaves or roles of bread at the Friday night and Shabbat day meal. Thus a Shabbat day meal should be eaten earlier in the morning and all chametz at that meal finished by 11:09am (the meal may continue with non-chametz food and benching after that time). By 12:11pm any leftover chametz

must be destroyed or removed from your premises, e.g., flushed down the toilet, or put in a communal outside apartment building trash can or in an outside personal trash can covered by other garbage, and the bitul, nullification of chametz, then recited.

One may say kiddush outside and say Hamotzie and eat bread outside and then continue the meal inside if one is anxious about getting chametz in the house. Alternatively one may make hamotzie on kosher for passover egg matza and eat it until the time that chametz is forbidden, 11:09am (sefardim may consume egg matza later than this on Erev Pesach but not ashkenazim). The egg matza should then be put away but does not have to be disposed of. Though it is permitted to consume egg matza in the morning on Erev Pesach until the end of the 4th hour of the day and it is permitted to eat boiled matza such as matza balls all day until the 10th hour of the day, regular matza is forbidden on erev pesach so that one has an appetite and excitement for the matza at the seder. In the words of the Talmud: "One who eats matza on Erev Pesach, it is like they had sexual relations with their fiance while she was still in her father's house (ie on the day before the wedding)."

Seudah Shlishit

The third meal on Shabbat is an important one and according to some it must be eaten in the afternoon. Since neither bread, nor egg matza (for ashkenazim), nor kitniot (rice and legumes) are permitted after the 4th hour on Erev Pesach (11:09am this year), and regular matza is forbidden all day, therefore one should eat other food for seudah shelishit such as fish, meat, eggs, fruit, vegetables, passover products made from potato flour, etc. Care should be taken not to eat too much late in the day in order to have a good appetite for the seder.

Seder Preparations

No preparations may be made for the Seder or the Yom Tov on Shabbat. Before lighting Yom Tov candles or doing any kind of preparation for the Seder after Shabbat is over, the following statements should be made by anyone not present at the Synagogue services, or davening Ma'ariv: BARUCH HAMAVIDIL BEIN KODESH LE'KODESH, "Blessed is the One who distinguishes between one sanctity (Shabbat) and another (Yom Tov)."

Purchasing chometz in stores after Pesach

One may not get benefit from Chometz which was owned by a Jew over Passover. You may purchase chometz immediately after Passover from the following stores:

Aldi, BJ's, Costco, CVS, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Kmart, Lidl, Petco, PetSmart, Rite Aid, Royal Farms, Save-A-Lot, Sam's Club, Shoppers Food and Pharmacy, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Walmart, Wegmans, Whole Foods Market, H Mart, MOM's Organic Market, Snider's, Streets Market, Potomac Wines & Spirits, Giant, Safeway, Target