



## **Agudas Yisroel of West Rogers Park**

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# **Shul Kitchen/Food Guidelines**

## **Section A- Introduction**

1. All rules apply to all *Simchos*, meetings, learning programs, *tikuns*, *Seuda Shlishis*, *Neilas Hachag* and events when food is served. All rules apply to the kitchen, dining room, *Beis Medrash*, hallways, and all rooms upstairs.
2. Food prepared at home is not permitted.
3. All Food preparation must be done in the shul kitchen or by a caterer certified by CRC or other acceptable hashgacha that the Rav has approved. The caterer requires a separate *Mashgiach* who is CRC approved.
4. If an individual will be preparing food in the kitchen, the Rav or member of the Kitchen Committee (KC) list below must be contacted after reserving the hall for specifics and *Mashgiach* requirements. The Rav or the KC member will need to be advised of the times that you will be preparing food in the kitchen.
5. The Rav or KC member may come into the kitchen at any time to review ingredients or procedures. The necessity of a *Mashgiach* (to be paid) present during food preparations or event is at the discretion of the Rav.
6. The Rav is the *Rav Hamachshir* of the kitchen and has final say regarding any food served in the shul building or at a shul sponsored event. Any *Shalos* that arise in the must be asked to the Rav.

## Section B – Ingredients/Products

1. All food ingredients, products and prepared foods must have a CRC approved certification. Products must be checked over by the Rav or KC member for proper symbols. All baked goods must be *Pas Yisroel*. Shul policy allows products that are not *Yoshon*. However, between August and *Pesach*, it is advisable to know what baked goods are *Yoshon* for those who ask (between *Pesach* and July one can assume all products are *Yoshon*).
2. All dairy products (i.e. at a dairy event) must be *Cholov Yisroel*. Note: Even at dairy events (e.g. a bris) only cold dairy may be prepared in the kitchen. Furthermore, dairy may not be prepared in the kitchen without covering countertops as all equipment in the kitchen is considered meat. Packages of cheese and tubs of cream cheese may be stored in the refrigerator. Hot dairy items or heating dairy ingredients is not allowed without first consulting the Rav.
3. Products from Israel may only be used if their hechsherim appear on the CRC list of approved hechsherim or if they are approved by the Rav.
4. Eggs must be checked for blood spots. Unprocessed peeled eggs, onion, and garlic may not be left overnight without permission of the Rav.
5. Due to concerns with *tolaim* (bug infestation), the Rav should be consulted regarding fruit and vegetable preparation.
6. Fruits and melons must be cleaned, peeled, etc. in the shul. (for Shabbos issues see Section D1-j) Use platters/baskets of your choice.
7. Before ordering baked goods from out of town, (e.g. cakes from New York bakeries) one must have prior approval from the Rav. No products may be brought in without the consent of the Rav or the KC.
8. All wine and grape juice must have an approved hechsher and, if a gentile will be working the event, state “Mevushal” on the label.
9. All liquor and soda must be reviewed to see that they appear on the CRC list .
10. All fish and meat brought in must be double-sealed or vacuum-packed with an approved hechsher. Seals should be broken after bringing them into the shul.

### **Section C- Utensils and Process**

1. One may only use the shul's utensils. No utensils from home may be used with the following exception: One may use fruit platters, deli trays or any serving tray used to serve cold solid food (e.g. cake platter). All utensils in the shul should be considered *fleishig* (unless the utensil is specially designated as dairy and used for dairy events ).
2. One must *tovel* all new metal or glass utensils and containers.
3. Fish and Meat –Must be cooked in separate *keilim* during preparation and cooking. They must also be served on separate *keilim*. One may use a utensil for fish and then wash it to use with meat.
4. All stoves, flames and heating equipment must be turned on by a religious Jew. This includes ovens, stove tops, hot boxes, sternos, whether gas or electric. If those preparing the food have no experience with the shul's ovens , a KC member must be contacted in advance for instructions .
5. Kitchen can only be opened by the Rav or a KC member.

### **Section D.-Shabbos Issues**

- I. *Before Shabbos*- The following preparations must be made before Shabbos.
  - a. All heating equipment (ovens, stoves, hot boxes, warmers, crock pots, coffee urns, etc.) used on Shabbos, should be turned on by a religious Jew prior to Shabbos. Lights must also be turned on before Shabbos.
  - b. If using the Stove top, Stove tops must be covered with a sheet of metal (*blech*) and all controlling knobs, switches, or dials of heating equipment, should be covered.
  - c. All foods should be precooked to at least an edible state (according to the Rav's standards) prior to Shabbos. They must be on the *blech* or in the oven or warmer before candle lighting time.

- d. All liquids or foods containing liquid should be pre-cooked and hot before Shabbos and placed in or on heating equipment prior to Shabbos.
- e. All food decorations must be done before Shabbos. Cakes should not have lettering or pictures that will be broken on Shabbos. All *shaalos* regarding this matter should be brought to the attention of the Rav.
- f. If tea is being served, to avoid all issues, tea essence must be prepared before Shabbos.
- g. It is recommended that all fruit be peeled and cut before Shabbos. When necessary, it may be cut or peeled on Shabbos but only immediately prior to the meal. Please speak to the Rav if you wish to do this. One may not peel fruit before davening for a Kiddush. Any designs on the fruit trays must be prepared before Shabbos.
- h. Plug in all urns and warmers before Shabbos. A gentile may not turn on ovens or crock pots at any time. He also may not plug in any urns on Shabbos. You may not ask him to do *melocho* and often hinting is also prohibited. Contact the Rav for any other *Amira L'akum* issues.
- i. All cans and twist off metal bottle caps must be opened before Shabbos. They may not be opened by a Jew on Shabbos. All plastic bottle caps and paper goods should preferably be opened before Shabbos, but if necessary, may be opened on Shabbos.,
- j. Jewish waiters for Shabbos jobs should also work on Erev Shabbos and/or after Shabbos ( in accordance with *havla'ah* guidelines for paying them for their work.

## II. ***On Shabbos***

- a. Vegetable peelers may not be used on Shabbos.
- b. On Shabbos, slotted spoons/ colander may not be used with any foods containing liquids. Slotted spoons may also not be used to serve ice.
- c. Fruits and vegetables cannot be chopped into small pieces on Shabbos.

- d.* Tea bags and coffee bags may not be used on Shabbos. Tea essence (prepared before Shabbos), instant tea powder, and instant coffee may be used.
- e.* No deliveries may be made to or from the event site by the caterer or any outside distributor on Shabbos.
- f.* No appliances , ovens, stoves, or any other gas or electric equipment may be turned on or off, even by a non-Jew on Shabbos. If there is a need to turn off an appliance on Shabbos (using a gentile) of one wishes to put equipment on a timer , the Rav should be consulted.

KC Members are:

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