

Dear Friends,

Since we are not accustomed to Shabbat without an eruv, it is a good idea to spend some time thinking through your Shabbat routine to determine what you can do to prepare for Shabbat without the eruv. Please feel free to call or text me if you have any questions. My cellphone number is 917-621-5678.

1. If you are going to be a guest at someone's home for a Shabbat meal bring the wine or food-gift before Shabbat (although your hosts will also understand if you don't bring them a gift). If you are hosting a meal you may use anything that a guest who does not know that the eruv is down (or does not understand the significance of the eruv being down) brings to your home on Shabbat.

2. Think ahead about how you are going to get into your home since it won't be possible to carry keys.

A) You could leave it unlocked or leave someone at home.

B) Hide a key outside within 6 feet of the door. Pick up the key; unlock the door; remove the key; open the door; and put the key back in its hiding place. If you have an enclosed porch, you can ignore the 6-foot limitation, and put it anywhere on the porch.

"Wearing" a key (e.g., hanging from a bracelet or a belt) is forbidden, unless the key is actually serving a purpose for your clothing (e.g., serving as a belt buckle). A key cannot be considered "jewelry" unless it is so beautiful that you would wear it even if it were not functional.

If you live in an apartment building:

A) Key to the building: If you don't want to have to wait for somebody else to come along to open the door, follow the above instructions, leaving the key outside the building. Please note, however, that if your building has two sets of front doors, and it is the inner set that is locked, you must hide the key in the vestibule between the doors, as you may not bring it from outside into the vestibule.

B) Key to your apartment: Follow the above instructions, though you may hide the key anywhere in the building hallways (with no 6-foot limitation).

3. Strollers cannot be used when the eruv is down.

Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz unreservedly permits hiring gentile babysitters to push strollers on Shabbat. This can be relied on for the (thankfully) rare occasions when our eruv is down. (I would be wary to endorse this position in communities without an eruv altogether, lest it introduce divisions between those who can and those who cannot afford to hire someone to push a stroller).

4. Children cannot be carried on Shabbat. However, if a child who is capable of walking a certain distance (e.g. from home to shul), has a "melt down" (the technical term), that child can be carried the rest of the way.

5. You may carry to and from your apartment to other parts of the building if the apartments are rental units owned by a common owner and if the appliances or other furniture is owned by the

building's owner. You may not carry to or from the common areas of a condo building without first making an "*eruv hatzerot*." The process for making an *eruv hatzerot* is found in the Koren Siddur on page 305 and in the Artscroll Siddur on page 656.

You may carry anywhere within the hallways and other public areas of the building. E.g., you may leave some toys in the hallway or playroom before Shabbat, and they may then be used throughout the building and brought back into your apartment after Shabbat ends.

6. One may wear any article of clothing even if it is not a piece of clothing you need at that moment: your glasses, your watch, your jewelry, your hearing aid, and even a shoe insole, a bandage, or a wrist guard. Canes, walkers, crutches etc. may be used on Shabbat if one cannot walk without them.

7. If you wear a talit or bring your own siddur to shul, make arrangements to bring them to shul before Shabbat or else wear a talit under your coat when you come to shul on Shabbat morning (or use a talit or siddur from the shul's supply).

8. You will not be able to carry shoes or any other personal items that you might normally bring to shul, so if you need to wear boots, you may want to bring them or shoes to shul before Shabbat or wear your boots all morning.

Once again, please do not hesitate to email, call, or text if anything is unclear.

With best wishes for a peaceful Shabbat,

David

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