

# A PASSOVER TIMELINE

## STEP 1: REMOVAL OF CHAMETZ — CLEANING THE HOUSE

### STEP 2: KASHERING APPLIANCES

Gas ovens, both the stove-top and inside (racks as well), should be cleaned with an oven cleaner, and then not used for 24 hours. After 24 hours, invert the metal spiders and turn the burners on to the highest setting for 15 minutes. (If using an electric oven, turn the burners on the highest setting for 15 minutes as well.) After this is done, cover the stovetop with aluminum foil for the duration of Pesach. The inside oven should be turned on to broil for one hour.

For glass-top stoves, turn on burners for 15 minutes and clean surface afterwards. If any hot food drops between the burners, it should not be eaten.

If the oven is self-cleaning, go through one cycle.

Microwave ovens should be cleaned, and not used for 24 hours, after which a bowl or cup containing a few ounces of water should be put in and ‘cooked’ until the water is vaporized into steam.

Stainless steel sinks should be cleaned with a cleaning solution, and not used for 24 hours, after which boiling water should be poured on every area of the sink and its parts. Porcelain sinks cannot be kashered. They must be cleaned and covered.

Dishwashers may be kashered for Pesach after standing unused for 24 hours. They should be put through three complete cycles, using soap in the first one.

### Kashering Utensils

While it is preferable to have as many utensils as possible specially reserved for use only on Pesach, many utensils used throughout the year

may be kashered for use on Pesach. Items that are ‘kasherable’ include: metal utensils used for hot and cold, providing they are not difficult to clean (i.e., a sieve, parts that are glued together), and glass utensils that were used strictly for cold food.

Items that may not be kashered are: glassware that is used for cooking, earthenware, pottery, porcelain, and chinaware.

Pyrex may be koshered.

The easiest way to kasher utensils is to bring them to the KJ “Kasher-In” from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Sunday, March 21 or Monday, March 22, from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM., where Rabbis Chaim Steinmetz, Meyer Laniado, and Daniel Kraus will supervise the immersion of metal utensils in a large sink of rapidly boiling water. Social distancing will be observed in the KJ Lobby, and guests will be ushered to the KJ Kitchen one at a time, so allow extra time.

It is also possible to kasher in the privacy of your own home. The procedure for kashering is as follows: Metal utensils should be thoroughly cleaned with a cleaning solution and then not used for 24 hours. Small utensils such as silverware or other cutlery should be immersed briefly in a large pot containing rapidly boiling water. If the pot is very large, more than one item may be immersed at a time. Each item should then be rinsed with cold water. Pots are kashered by bringing water in them to a boil and then immersing a hot stone or iron such that the water will overflow onto the sides of the pot. Then rinse the pot in cold water. Items which came into direct contact with chametz, without the medium of water (e.g. a broiler, frying pan) may be kashered by heating them until they are literally ‘red hot’ or by placing them in a

self-cleaning oven during the self-clean cycle.

Glass utensils used exclusively for cold drinks should be cleaned carefully and may be used for Pesach.

## STEP 3: THE SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ

One of the most beautiful and meaningful ceremonies associated with Passover is b’dikat chametz — the search for chametz. The ceremony is composed of five parts.

1. Reciting a special blessing over the mitzvah of the removal of chametz.
2. The search of the house by the light of a candle to find vestiges of chametz.
3. The reciting of the formula of nullification of chametz.
4. The burning or disposal of any chametz found during the search.
5. The reciting of a final, more inclusive formula of nullification.

The first three parts of this ceremony will be observed this year on Thursday evening, March 25, after nightfall, at 7:50 PM. The disposal should be on Friday morning, March 26. Children especially will be impressed by the ceremony. It should, therefore, be performed with enthusiasm and dedication.

The children should be asked to place pieces of chametz in the various rooms — a practice which ensures that the search will not be in vain. They can hold the candle and the feather and they should examine their own possessions, dressers and desks, for long forgotten relics of chametz.

Passover is a beautiful festival. It is a serious one, too. Both these aspects can be captured in advance of the festival by a careful observance of b’dikat chametz.

## Disposal of Chametz

No chametz may be eaten on Shabbat morning, March 27 after 10:56 AM. The final, more inclusive formula of nullification may be recited from then until 11:59 AM.

### STEP 4: THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

The ritual sale of chametz must be completed by early Friday morning, March 26. There are those who prefer to perform the ritual in person. For those who cannot attend to the matter in person, there is a form at [ckj.org/form/chametz](http://ckj.org/form/chametz) which authorizes Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz to sell your chametz. **This must be returned to the synagogue by Friday morning, March 26, no later than 8:30 am.**

### STEP 5: THE BURNING OF CHAMETZ

On Friday morning, March 26, it is customary to burn chametz, even though Erev Pesach actually falls on Shabbat this year. Chametz should be removed from one's possession and burned by 11:59 AM. The synagogue provides a large, contained fire for this purpose. No bracha should be said, since the one said before the search applies to the burning as well.

### STEP 6: AFTER PESACH

According to Jewish Law, chametz that was owned by a Jew during Pesach may never be eaten by a Jew. Therefore, it is preferable that after Pesach one buys food from establishments owned by non-Jews, establishments owned by Jews who properly sold their chametz before Pesach, or after a month (time that a store's stock has been used up) from any establishment.

# SPECIAL PRACTICES FOR AN EREV PESACH THAT FALLS ON SHABBAT

On rare occasions, the eve of Passover comes out on Shabbat. This year is one of those rarities. Since the last time this occurred was in 2008, it is appropriate to note the following changes in our practices when our calendar falls this way.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 25

### Fast of the Firstborn

This year's fast of the firstborn takes place on Thursday, March 25, three days before Passover - instead of Erev Pesach. Our services will begin at 7:00 AM. The siyum, which will be viewable on Zoom immediately following services, will serve to absolve the firstborn of the need to fast.

### Bedikat Chametz

The search for chametz should take place on Thursday night after 7:50 PM. It is performed in the usual fashion, with the blessing and the recitation of *Kol Chamira*.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 26

### The Burning and Selling of Chametz

Although chametz may be eaten all of Friday and until 10:56 Shabbat morning (Erev Pesach), it is customary to burn any chametz on Friday morning before 11:59. The *Kol Chamira* which is usually said after the burning is *not* recited this year until Shabbat morning because we are still allowed to use chametz until that time, although all meals consumed on Friday night and Shabbat must be Passover meals eaten on Passover dishes.

## SHABBAT, MARCH 27

### The Procedure on Shabbat

Rabbi Steinmetz follows the opinion that washing and eating egg matzah on Shabbat morning is superior to eating bread since there is less of a chance for crumbs of chametz to fall in your ready-for-Passover home. If you do eat bread for hamotzi, (which should be consumed over a disposable napkin and any remaining crumbs should be eliminated from the home,) you must be finished eating by 10:56 AM, and many rabbinic authorities say you should be finished eating egg matzah by that time, as well. If you are concerned that you will not have time to finish your meal by 10:56 AM, Rabbi Steinmetz suggests you pray at the 7:10 AM KJ Hashkama Minyan that morning.

### Preparing the Seder

Inasmuch as it is forbidden to prepare on Shabbat for Yom Tov, one should not prepare for the Seder on Shabbat. On the contrary, one should have a good solid rest on Shabbat afternoon and enter the Seder in a far more relaxed state than usual. The egg and the shank bone should be broiled before Shabbat. Romaine lettuce or horseradish and charoset should also be prepared prior to Shabbat. If one forgets to prepare the shank bone, one may cook it on Saturday night and it should be consumed sometime during the first day of Yom Tov.