

A PASSOVER GUIDE

Step #1: Removal of Chametz – Cleaning the House

Step #2: Kashering Appliances

Ovens/Burners/Stovetops

For gas or electric ovens, if the oven is self-cleaning, go through one cycle.

If the oven is not self-cleaning, the inside (racks as well) should be cleaned with an oven cleaner, and then not used for 24 hours. After 24 hours, turn the oven to its highest temperature (broil) for one hour.

Burners should not be used for 24 hours.

Electric burners should be turned on high for 15 minutes.

Gas burners should be turned on high for 15 minutes. To ensure proper kashering of the burner grates, place a pot of water on top of the surface area of the burner, covering the grates, for 15 minutes. This will allow heat to cover the surface area of the grates to kasher them.

The stovetop should be covered with aluminum foil for the duration of Pesach.

Microwaves

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.

Sinks

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

Dishwashers may be kashered for Pesach after standing unused for 24 hours. Clean the inside of the dishwasher (including area around the filter/drain.) They should be put through three complete cycles, using soap in the first one.

Kashering Utensils

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, pyrex, and chinaware.

The procedure for kashering is as follows: Metal utensils should be thoroughly cleaned 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.

Glasses only used for cold (or room temperature) beverages need to be cleaned well and can then be used without any additional kashering. Any glass items used for warm or hot liquids cannot be koshered 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 Tuesday evening, April 7, after nightfall, 8:00 PM. The disposal should be on Wednesday morning, April 8. 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 Wednesday morning, April 8 after 10:47 AM.

Step #4: The Sale of Chametz

The ritual sale of chametz must be completed by early Wednesday morning, April 8. There are those who prefer to perform the ritual in person. For those who cannot attend to the matter in person, please fill out this [form](#) which authorizes Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz to sell your chametz. **THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 8, NOT LATER THAN 8:30 AM.**

Step #5: The Burning of Chametz

On Wednesday morning, April 8, it is customary to burn chametz. Chametz should be removed from one's possession and burned by 10:52 AM. If there is no place to actually burn the chametz, it can be disposed of by throwing down the garbage chute or into an outdoor receptacle or dumpster.

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.