

PESACH GUIDELINES FOR THIS YEAR

First and foremost, we need to remember that Pesach is a YomTov and there is an obligation to be B'simcha on YomTov.

Given the situation and unrest in the world, along with the possible financial crisis, in addition to having the kids home and potentially a last minute decision to make YomTov on your own. It may be a time that the Ratzon Hashem is to follow the ikar hadin and put the serenity of the house before chumras that we have every year. We will hopefully be able to reestablish them next year.

Therefore, we are setting forth a short list of Halachos and guidelines of what is necessary or not necessary to do to prepare your home for a peaceful Pesach.

Preparing the House for Pesach

Which areas of the house need to be cleaned?

- Any room or closet that will not be used on Pesach does not need to be cleaned or checked for chametz. Such as guest rooms, closets in specific rooms, cabinets with all year round dishes, toy closets, storage rooms etc.
- If you have a Pesach kitchen you can tape up the all year kitchen and does not need to be cleaned.
- However, the above mentioned locations especially if they contain dishes that are used all year round must be taped up and sold with the chametz. This way we remember not to use them on Yom Tov.
- Any area that is not easily accessible and requires screws to be removed does not have to be cleaned only as far as the hand or vacuum can reach. Such as under dishwashers, inside vents etc. do not need to be cleaned
- Under the fridge or oven which can be easily moved out should be moved and vacuumed.

Who needs to clean it so I can consider it cleaned for a quick Bedika Erev Pesach

- Any one over the age of Bar or Bas Mitzva once explained what they need to clean, can then be trusted to complete the job
- If a non-Jewish maid cleans that's fine with one of 2 conditions. 1- An adult yid watches them do it. 2- An adult yid checks it after them (preferred at night with the light on)

How do I clean?

- Let's remember that crumbs (let alone dust) or any remnants of chametz that is ruined by cleaning agents are not included in the Issur. Especially after we sold and were mevatel the chametz.

PESACH GUIDELINES FOR THIS YEAR

- **Open areas** - Vacuuming once and washing the floor with a cleaning agent all over the surface is enough. No need to scratch out moldings or between tile grout.
- **Walls** - Do not have to be washed
- **Chairs, Couches and Stands** - Washing with a cleaning agent and vacuuming as far as the vacuum reaches is sufficient. No need to take apart the screws or dig with toothpicks. A couch should be vacuumed as far as the vacuum reaches.
- **Table tops** - Just require covering with plastic after a quick surface clean with windex.
- **Kitchen Counter** - If we are using them on Pesach they are the same as a table top but should be double covered OR use a hard plastic cover. Backsplashes should be covered with foil.
- **Sinks** - It's hard to kasher a sink properly, the best way is to use an insert after washing the sink with a strong cleaning agent. The insert should be an inch or 2 above the surface of the sink so waters laying in the sink don't flow in to the insert. The drain can stay open but it should be kashered by pouring boiling water over it.
- **Faucets** - Do not need to be changed. Just boil up hot water and pour it over the faucet. Some add a net or sock around the tip. Faucet knobs should be cleaned and do not need to be covered.
- **Hot water dispensers** - If needed they can be kashered by turning on the hot water for a few minutes then pouring bubbling water over the outside (not from a microwave) it should not be used for hot chametz within 24 hours of koshering.
- **Microwaves** - Should not be kashered.
- **Ovens** - All oven windows are preferred to be covered in case Hagala doesn't work. The rest of the ovens are divided in 2: **1- Self-clean ovens** should be cleaned with an agent no scraping or digging required just turn on the self-clean with the racks in it. **2- Non self-clean ovens** should have inserts or you can buy a convection oven. In the event that there is a shortage, the oven should be cleaned with cleaning agents then left on the highest temperature for 30 minutes (after that temp. is reached). However, the racks need to be either changed or double covered if they were not in a self-clean oven. It is also preferred to double wrap all food that is cooked in the none self-clean oven that does not have an insert.
- **Stove tops** - All removable parts can be placed in to the self-clean cycle. if you don't have a self-clean, they should be washed with a strong cleaning agent then turn the fire on them till they heat and they should be covered with foil. The other elements of the stove top can just be treated like counter tops.
- **Dishes** - We don't use the same dishes for Pesach besides silver.

PESACH GUIDELINES FOR THIS YEAR

- **Refrigerator** - Wash and line the shelves no unscrewing or taking apart necessary. the walls and handles do not have to be lined.
- **Silver** - The ones used on Pesach for food can be Kasherred as follows. Boil up water in a large aluminum pan or a special pot used for this purpose till it bubbles (not in a microwave). immerse the silver for a few seconds and then put in to cold water. A large piece that does not fit in can be Kasherred half at a time. Lachters, lachter trays, vases or any items not used for food even if they will be placed on the table do not need to be kasherred just washed.
- **Towels and table cloths** - Although if truly necessary they can be washed well in a machine and used for Pesach especially table cloths that get covered with plastic. However, it is preferred to have separate ones.
- **Coats and Briefcases** - Those that won't be used on Pesach can just be stored and sold. The coats that will be used YomTov and were not washed should just have the pockets checked for large pieces.
- **Clothing** - Anything that went through the machine with the pockets out are considered clean. If the pockets were in they should be briefly checked.
- **Seforim** - The ones used all year at the chametz table should be checked. **Zemiros** - should be stored in a sold cabinet. The book cases can be vacuumed just in front of the seforim no need to remove the seforim.

Erev Yom Tov and Shopping

- **Selling the Chametz** - If the situation will require it is ok to sell the chametz over the phone. THIS YEAR NO FOOD SHOULD BE THROWN OUT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE PACKED AWAY AND SOLD.
- **Night of Bedikas Chametz** - If all the above was done by a Bar or Bas Mitzva and chametz was not taken in since the cleaning, a quick bedika is sufficient and not every crack needs to be checked.
- **Biur Chametz** - only the 10 pieces should be burnt the rest of the chometz can be taken out to the garbage and put out on the street for pickup.
- **Kitniyus** - Any Child under the age of 9 that requires food which has Kitniyus (but it needs Kosher Lpesach certification on the Kitniyos) can be used on Pesach with separate dishes . If the child is over 9 then only for medical purposes.
- **Pessach Products** - All products sold for Pessach with a hechsher are permissible to use. Those that have any minhagim not to use specific items can use them for children under bar mitzvah. Even adults can be Matir Neder for this year, especially if it's the first time they are making YomTov and the minhag of the past was just from the parents' home
- **Gebrukts, Machine Matzos** - is a chumra that does not go in to the above category and may be more stringent, however machine matzos with a reliable hechsher especially for kids in time of need are not questionable halachacly at all.

PESACH GUIDELINES FOR THIS YEAR

- **Medications / Vitamins** – All medications that are not edible and are required for any health reasons can be used on Pesach as long as they are tablet that has no taste, or a bitter form of liquid. If they are tasty or chewable they need to be kosher for Pesach. Vitamins that are required for health in example prenatal etc. are allowed to be kitniyos and swallowed.
- **Cosmetics** - Soaps, Shampoos and unscented deodorants do not have to be kosher for Pessach. Perfumes, toothpaste and mouth washes should be kosher for Pessach.

Preparing for the Seder Night

- **Four Kossos** - Any wine or any grape juice for those that have a hard time with wine is kosher for Kiddush and 4 kossos. The shiur for each cup should preferably be 5.08 ounces but 2.9 ounces would suffice. When drinking you only need to drink the majority of that volume.
- **Matzos** - Every adult is required to eat minimum 4 kezaisim of Matza: 1 for the Mitzva, 1 for Korach and 2 for Afikomen. The Baal Habayis or any participant that uses their own 3 Matzos should eat 2 kezaisim for the Mitzva 1 of the whole matza and 1 of the broken one.
- **Shiurim** - The shiur Kezayis for the ikar mitzvah is 1/3 of an average matza. The shiur kezayis for korach and afikomen can be 1/5th of an average matza for those who have a hard time with 1/3. For Afikoman since the 2nd kezayis is only lehachmir so 2/5th of a matza is enough for the entire Afikoman
- **Karpas** - Can be potatoes or radishes
- **Maror** - Romaine lettuce or ground horseradish can be used. The shiur kezayis is 3 average leaves or 2 for those that have a hard time.
- **Zroah and Beitza** - Should preferably be broiled on the fire before YomTov, if you forget its ok to do so on yomtov but should then be eaten on YomTov
- **Charoses** - Should be prepared before YomTov. Salt water can be prepared on YomTov

HALACHIC NOTE: ANYONE THAT IS SICK WITH FEVER OR THE VIRUS IS ALLOWED TO HAVE A GOY PREFORM ANY MELACHA ON SHABBOS OR YOMTOV FOR THE CHOLA ONLY, AS WELL AS TAKING A HOT SHOWER IF A GOY TURNS ON THE WATER (NOT COOKING RAW FOOD)

נערך על ידי – הרב יוסף גינזבערג ביהמ"ד תולדות יצחק - לטובת וליכות רפואת הכלל

בסיוע ובהעברת

הרה"ג דומ"ץ סקווירא שליט"א

הרה"ג חיים מאיר ראטה שליט"א

הרה"ג אברהם ישעי פראנד שליט"א

חם כל זמן!