

Pesach Primer

This Pesach Primer contains short notes that you can refer to over the course of preparing for and on Pesach. It should be noted that there are many opinions on almost every topic regarding Pesach. Therefore, acceptable opinions have been included and when it may be proper to be strict or where there's room for leniency, it has been noted.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns – ravari@dianellashule.com or 0422598341.

Selling & Checking for Chametz

Basics

- Chametz is:
 - A Torah prohibition that is punishable by Karet
 - Forbidden (over Pesach) in any amount – i.e. it cannot be nullified if it by mistake is added to a mixture
- Chametz owned by a Jew over Pesach:
 - Forbidden to benefit from. This is a Rabbinic penalty for owning chametz over Pesach.
 - Only applies to actual food, not absorbed taste in utensils.
- Times:
 - Latest time to eat chametz is **Wednesday April 8th – 10:23 am**
 - Latest time to destroy chametz is **Wednesday April 8th – 11:20 am**

Selling Chametz

- Only actual chametz, whether pure (e.g. bread) or in a mixture needs to be sold.
- Some have the custom not to sell pure chametz, rather to destroy or give it away. This is not obligatory.
- You don't sell the chametz to the Rabbi. The Rabbi is appointed to sell on your behalf.
- How to appoint:
 - Best is via written form + Kinyan Sudar (physical act that effects the transaction).
 - According to the strict Halacha, verbal appointment is sufficient.
- The Non-Jew should have access to the home. If going away, leave keys with someone.

Bedikat Chametz (Checking for Chametz)

- Should be done immediately after צאת הכוכבים (nightfall) – this year it is **6:42 pm on Tuesday April 7th**.
- It's not just a ceremony – actually check! (or confirm that the cleaning/checking previously done was good)
- The standard practice is to hide pieces of chametz to find, so that the beracha will not be in vain. Bediavad it's ok even if you didn't hide anything.
- If you don't understand Aramaic, the Bittul must be recited in a language you understand.
- Even if away for Pesach, should still do Bedikat Chametz. If leaving before the night of 14th Nisan – do it without a beracha.
- Office/workplace – if you rent it, then it's the same as your home. If you don't rent it, just make sure you don't own any actual chametz there.

Kashering for Pesach

Principles

- Main principle – כבולעו כר פולטו → the way something is used, that's how it's kashered.
- 5 Main methods of Kashering:
 - 1) **Libun Gamur** (Heavy Burning) – burn with fire until it glows (e.g. blowtorch).
 - 2) **Libun Kal** (Light Burning) – heat until it can singe a piece of straw (e.g. in oven to at least 280-300°C).
 - 3) **Hagala** (Boiling) – completely submerged in boiling water, then rinsed in cold water.
 - 4) **Iru** (Pouring) – pour boiling water over.
 - 5) **Soaking** (מילוי ועירוי) – immerse in cold water for 24 hrs, three times (i.e. 72 hrs total)
- Always clean well with chemicals and leave for 24 hours since last hot usage.
- Any items where there are serrations, screws, bolts, etc. that cannot be properly cleaned, need to undergo Libun even if Hagala would normally be ok.
- Any utensils or cookware that is not going to be used for Pesach, can be cleaned and put away in a manner that it is not easily reached. They do not need to be sold and according to some poskim should not.

There are always TWO considerations when Kashering: (1) Can the material be kashered? (2) How to kasher the item?

Material	Can it be kashered?
Caesar Stone	Yes, may be kashered. (Some say no, thus one who wishes to be strict may cover these surfaces)
China, Ceramic	No
Corian	Yes (if there are not scratches or stains, otherwise cover).
Earthenware	No
Glass	Ashkenazim – Usually no Sephardim – Doesn't need
Granite	Yes
Marble	Yes
Metal	Yes
Plastic (including Laminex, formica, etc)	Yes, may be kashered (make sure the plastic is smooth with no cuts or crevices). (Some poskim say no, hence if it's relatively cheap to buy new plastic items this is recommended.)
Porcelain	No
Pyrex, Duralux, etc.	Some say even Ashkenazim can kasher them via Hagala. Best to treat same as glass, if there's need ask the Rav.
Quartz Resin, Quartzite	Yes
Rubber	Some say yes, some say no There is room to allow it if necessary
Stoneware	Most stoneware is made from ground stone and cannot be kashered. If it's made out of a single piece of whole stone, it may be kashered.
Wood	Smooth wood with no crevices or holes may be kashered

Item	Method of Kashering	Notes
Coffee Machine	1) Clean thoroughly 2) Do a Descale 3) Leave for 24hrs 4) Run through a couple empty cycles 5) Milk frother via Hagala (or buy a cheap Target brand one)	
Countertops	Irui + Cover surfaces Strictly speaking one of the above is enough	If the material can be kashered. Video Links English Hebrew
Cutlery	Usually Hagala is enough.	If it's used directly on food cooking over heat, without any liquid, then it may require Libun.
Dining Table - wood	Clean + cover	
Dishwasher	1) Clean thoroughly (including thorough check and cleaning of the filters) 2) Leave for 24 hrs 3) Run a couple empty cycles on the hottest settings 4) (Preferably Kasher racks by Irui)	Video Link Hebrew
Drinking Glasses	Sephardim – Clean thoroughly. Ashkenazim – If used for hot, can't kasher. If used only for cold, some allow kashering via Soaking . (Note: many poskim recommend purchasing cheap glasses as this is relatively inexpensive and the Ashkenazi practice is not to kasher glass)	Bediavad or in pressing circumstances there can be room to be lenient for Ashkenazim. Consult the Rav.
Fridges/Freezers	Clean thoroughly with chemicals Good to also cover/line the shelves	
Frying Pans	If used with lots of oil – Libun Kal If used with little oil – Libun Gamur	Best to consult the Rav if this is necessary
Hotplate (Shabbat Plata)	1) Clean thoroughly 2) Turn on and leave on for a couple hrs 3) Cover with Al Foil	Video Link Hebrew
Microwave	1) Clean thoroughly 2) Leave for 24 hrs 3) Boil water with soap until it boils over & fills with steam 4) Replace glass plate or wrap multiple times	Video Link Hebrew
Oven	If there's a Self-Clean function that heats to 450-500°C, that is enough. Otherwise: 1) Clean thoroughly 2) Leave for 24 hrs 3) Turn onto highest heat for an hour 4) Grates should be kashered via Libun Gamur	Video Links English Hebrew If Libun Gamur is not possible for the grates, leave them in the oven when it is kashered and cover it with foil.

Item	Method of Kashering	Notes
Pots	Hagala	
Sink	Irui	If the material can be koshered. Video Link Hebrew
SodaStream	Irui over the parts that contact the beverage	
Stove – Gas/electric	Surface – clean thoroughly and leave for 24hrs. Grates – Libun Gamur	For electric, the elements/grates can be koshered by turning on until they glow red. Video Links English Hebrew
Stove – Glass	1) Clean properly 2) Irui 3) Use Al foil under the pots	
Stove – Induction	1) Clean properly 2) Irui 3) Use baking paper under the pots	
Strainer/Sieve	May not be koshered	
Urn	Doesn't usually require kashering	If used to heat food (by placing it on top of the urn) then it should be koshered. Speak to the Rav for how to do this.

Chametz & Kosher L'Pesach Foods

- One should follow the published Pesach Guides (KA or Kosher Australia) for all foods
- General rule – something that is not edible even to a dog is not considered a problem.
- **Pets**
One may **not** feed pets any food that contains chametz. One may not even feed stray animals or animals belonging to someone else chametz. Pets may be fed Kitniyot.
Refer to the Pesach guides for which pet foods are acceptable.
- **Perfumes, Colognes, Deodorants, etc:**
Some poskim hold they are problematic and need to be sold. Some hold they are not problematic.
One who wants to be strict can follow the Pesach guides, but there is room to be lenient.
- **Creams & Soaps/Shampoos**
They're inedible, no need for concern.
- **Toothpaste & Mouthwash**
Many poskim say they are problematic. There are significant poskim who say they are not edible or meant for eating and therefore not a problem.
It's nice to buy ones that are Kosher for Pesach.
However – there is certainly room to be lenient to use any toothpaste or mouthwash.
- **Dishwashing Detergent**
Some poskim allow any products, some don't.
Liquid detergent: Nice to use Kosher for Pesach. There is room to be lenient.
- **Medicines**
 - Pills that are swallowed are ok even if they contain chametz. If in doubt, ask the Rav.
 - Liquids/chewables – many poskim don't allow. There are some that do, so if there's a need consult the Rav. Particularly for children there's more room to be lenient.
 - Vitamins & Supplements – Many poskim don't allow. Some do, but preferable to refrain.
 - The Kosher guides have lists of checked and acceptable medications.
- **Kitniyot**
 - There are different categories of Kitniyot.
Some have a long-standing minhag behind them (rice, beans, lentils, sesame and also mustard, corn, Chumus).
Some are more recent and subject to dispute/custom (quinoa, peanuts, soy, potatoes).
 - It is acceptable to be lenient in many instances regarding those subject to dispute (e.g. peanuts, soy) and even with regard to products that may just contain kitniyot derivatives or kitniyot oil. Speak to the Rav for clarification.
 - We rely on the poskim that hold potatoes are ok.
 - We can rely on those poskim that hold Quinoa is ok. Refer to Pesach Guides on which to buy and how to prepare.
 - Consult the Rav before buying food that may have a problem of Kitniyot.

Seder Night

Kiddush and 4 Cups

- The cup must hold a Revi'it and one should drink the whole cup. Bediavad one must drink most of the cup.

Remember to lean to the left!

Measurements	Revi'it Size to Use
Best	150 mL for all 4 cups
Ok	150 mL for 1 st cup (Kiddush) 86 mL for the remaining cups
If needed	86 mL for all 4 cups
Medical Conditions	Wine may be diluted at a maximum of a 1/3 wine to 2/3 water ratio, as long as there is 4% alcohol in the final mixture. Grape juice may be diluted with water if it is at least 50% grape juice. A cup that holds at least 86mL should be used and at least 44mL must be drunk.

- For Shabbat - Remember to incorporate Havdalah into Kiddush on the 2nd night!

Karpas

- Should have a beracha of "Borei Pri HaAdama" and not be a vegetable that can be used for marror.
- Should eat less than a Kazayit (<20mL)
- (If Shabbat: Salt water this year should be prepared before Shabbat. Bediavad, one may prepare very diluted salt water in small quantities.)

Matzah

- Torah Mitzvah – need to eat 1 Kazayit (25-27.5g)
- Rabbinic – 2 kezaytim

Remember to lean to the left!

Measurements	Kezaytim Size to use	Machine Matzah Equivalent
Best	± 30 g	Just over 3/4 Machine Matzah
If needed	± 17 g	Just over 1/2 Machine Matzah
Medical Conditions	± 11 g	1/3 Machine Matza

Maror

- Rabbinic – need to eat 1 Kazayit

Measurements	Kezaytim Size to use	Amount of Leaves
Best	± 50 g	Just under A4 page of leaves
If needed	33 g	± 2/3 of a A4 page of leaves
Medical Conditions	17 g	± 1/3 a A4 page of leaves

- Lettuce, horseradish and endives are all acceptable.
- However, there are some poskim that say one should use lettuce and not horseradish.

Korech

- Rabbinic – 1 Kazayit

Measurements	Kezaytim Size to use	Machine Matzah Equivalent
Best	± 17 g	Just over 1/2 Machine Matzah
If needed	± 11 g	1/3 Machine Matza

Remember to lean to the left!

Tzafun (Afikoman)

Remember to lean to the left!

Measurements	Kezaytim Size to use	Machine Matzah Equivalent
Best	± 30 g	Just over 3/4 Machine Matzah
If needed	± 17 g	Just over 1/2 Machine Matzah
Medical Conditions	± 11 g	1/3 Machine Matza

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