



PESAH 5778

PREPARATION GUIDE

		Candle lighting	Havdallah
Erev Pesah	Fri 3/30	before 6:54pm PST	
Pesah 1	Sat 3/31	after 7:52pm PST	
Pesah 2	Sun 4/1		after 7:52pm PST
Erev Yom Tov	Thu 4/5	before 6:59pm PST	
Pesah 7	Fri 4/6	after 7:00pm PST	
Pesah 8	Sat 4/7		after 7:57pm PST

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH HAMETZ?

Hametz (leavened bread) is the anti-matzah. The two are made of exactly the same ingredients, but matzah has been soaked in water for fewer than 18 minutes, whereas *hametz* can soak all night long. Matzah doesn't waste any time -- it is the sense of urgency that drives us to do uncomfortable, inconvenient things -- leave behind the shackles of our own slavery, leave our safe careers to do something we really believe in, leave relationships that we know are destroying our spirits, leave the complacency that excuses us from engaging seriously in the pursuit of justice. *Hametz*, on the other hand, is what keeps us complacent. It makes excuses for us, it tells to wait another day before leaving Egypt, maybe until there's better weather. Matzah symbolizes the human capacity to take control of our own lives and change our destiny, shape our history. *Hametz* symbolizes the human resistance to change, our love affair with the status quo.

The Torah tells us many times and in many ways to get rid of all traces of *hametz* for the duration of Pesah. Traditionally, Jews don't just avoid ingesting *hametz* - they don't own it, don't derive benefit from it, don't go near it. Why not? Because in the world of Pesah -- the world of hope, possibility, and spiritual mobility, there is no room for bloated stagnancy, for excuses, for sleeping through life. There is work to be done, and for this one week, we can't afford to be set off course.

There are four primary mitzvot regarding *hametz* during Pesah: [1] not to eat it (Ex. 13:3), [2] not to see it (Ex. 13:7), [3] not to own it (Ex. 12:19), and [4] to destroy it (Ex. 12:15). We've prepared this handy guide to help you do so in 3 steps.

STEP 1 - Clean Out Your House

Follow the step-by-step instructions on the following pages to make the cleaning process as simple as possible. Then bring your unopened *hametz* to IKAR and we'll donate it to hungry folks in Los Angeles through SOVA.

STEP 2 - Mekhirat Hametz (selling hametz)

Whatever you don't donate we will legally sell to someone who is not Jewish for the week of Pesah and we'll do our best to make sure you get it back when the sun sets after Pesah. [Click here to sign over possession of your hametz through IKAR.](#)

STEP 3 - Bedikah (checking), Bi'ur (burning), and Bitul (nullifying)

The night before Pesah, check your house one last time for any remaining traces of *hametz*, then destroy and nullify them in the morning. We've included the [Rabbinical Assembly's one-page guide](#) at the end of this packet to help in this quick (and beautiful) ritual.



*The following is the IKAR Pesah guide, based on rulings of the Rabbinical Assembly and Rabbi Aaron Alexander.
Special thanks to Rabbi Gabriel Botnick for compiling this material.*

PESAH PREPARATIONS

The basic idea in kashering for Pesah is that the way utensils absorb food is the way they can be kashered. Therefore, dishes or utensils used only for cold foods and drinks can be kashered simply by washing with cold, soapy water. Utensils used on a stove can absorb the essence of food through heat and therefore are kashered in boiling water. Finally, utensils used directly on a fire or in an oven require the most intense method of kashering, which is the direct application of fire (usually with a small blowtorch).

KASHERING YOUR KITCHEN

To begin kashering utensils and appliances, clean them thoroughly and then don't use them ideally for 24 hours, but at least overnight.

- Oven** Thoroughly clean your oven with a eco-friendly oven cleaner, then set it to the hottest setting for 1 hour. If your oven has a self-cleaning feature, you can use this instead. Once the oven cools down, give it one more quick wipe-down to remove any residual ash.
- Stove** Thoroughly clean the surface, grates, and jets of your stove with a strong cleaner. Then set each burner to the highest setting and leave on for 10 minutes. If you're concerned that there is still food residue that you can't completely remove, cover any exposed surfaces with foil.
- Microwave** Thoroughly clean and then place an 8-ounce cup of water inside and heat on high until most of the water disappears (heating until the copy is empty may damage the microwave).
- Counters** Stainless steel, stone, or plastic laminate surfaces can be kashered. Clean them thoroughly and then pour boiling water over them. All other surfaces (wood, tile, cement, etc), should be covered with contact paper, regular paper, or foil for the duration of the holiday.
- Sinks** If a sink is stainless steel, give it a thorough scrubbing and then refrain from using hot water in the sink for 24 hours (or overnight). At the end of the 24 hours, pour boiling water over the sink. For all other sinks (porcelain, ceramic, etc), give it a thorough scrubbing and then use a sink insert.
- Dishwasher** Thoroughly clean the inside including around the drain and filter. Then run a full cycle on high heat with detergent while the dishwasher is empty of everything but the racks. Wait 24 hours and run another full cycle on high heat with detergent. You can then use your dishwasher throughout the holiday.
- Other** *Tables, Cabinets, Drawers, Fridge, and Freezer* - If you'll be using any of these to store food you'll eat during Pesah, carefully clean them to remove all *hametz*. It is not necessary to cover any of these surfaces after cleaning.

KASHERING UTENSILS

This section describes the process of kashering your various kitchen utensils - making them fit for use during Pesah. Please note that this is a two-day process, so give yourself plenty of time to prepare.

Items which can be kashered this way:

metal pots and pans; pyrex and other glass cookware and bakeware*; dishes; heavy duty plastic utensils; and silverware*

Items which cannot be kashered this way:

ceramic, earthenware, or stoneware dishes

- Step 1** Remove any handles if food could have become lodged between the utensil and the handle.
- Step 2** Thoroughly scrub with hot water and soap.
- Step 3** Let sit unused for 24 hours (but if not possible, at least overnight).
- Step 4** Bring a large pot of water to a boil, letting the water boil over the side.
- Step 5** Fully immerse each utensil in the boiling water.
It's a good idea to first *kasher* a set of tongs to use in removing other utensils from the pot.
Larger items can be immersed one part at a time.
It's okay to immerse multiple utensils at once, as long as the water continues to boil.
- Step 6** Finally, common practice is to rinse the utensils in cold water and you're good to go!

**These items can only be kashered this way if you can remove all visible traces of food. Otherwise, they must be kashered by use of a blowtorch - and let's be honest, it's a lot easier not to use this pot for the week.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Rabbi Ronit Tsadok and Rabbi Aaron Alexander wrote an article for the HuffPost which offers four additional ways to act strictly for Pesah, while simultaneously feeding your soul, enlivening your religious life, and bringing heightened awareness to those around you.

<http://huff.to/HhZ9IW>

Rabbi Aaron Alexander has compiled a great collection of online resources and podcasts to help you with preparing your home and soul for the holiday, as well as creating a meaningful seder.

<http://www.zieglertorah.org/2014/03/19/all-things-passover-a-comprehensive-guide-in-progress/>

The Rabbinical Assembly provides an excellent (and very thorough) guide on preparing your home for Pesah, including what foods are okay to eat even when they're not marked "Kosher for Passover".

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide>

Hag Sameah! We hope you have a meaningful and inspiring holiday.



בדיקת חמץ The Search for Hameitz

The formal search for leaven (בדיקת חמץ) is conducted on the night before *Pesah*. This symbolizes the final removal of leaven from the home. Before the search, it is customary to deposit small pieces of bread (ten pieces, according to kabbalistic lore) in strategic places so that the inspection should have a purpose. It is traditionally carried out by the light of a candle, with a feather and a wooden spoon to collect the *hameitz*; all this is set aside until morning. If *erev Pesah* occurs on Shabbat, we search for *hameitz* on Thursday evening.

Before the search, recite:

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו על בעור חמץ. Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu al biur hameitz.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to remove all hameitz.

After the search, recite:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי,
דלא חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה,
לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא. Kol hamira v'hamia d'ika virshuti,
d'la hamiteih udla viarteih udla y'dana leih,
libateil v'lehevei hefkeir k'afra d'ara.

All hameitz in my possession which I have not seen or removed, or of which I am unaware, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

Recitation of this declaration, and a similar one the following day, prevents us from violating the prohibition against *hameitz* (Exodus 13:7). In the morning, after the last meal of *hameitz*, leftovers are added to the crumbs gathered the previous night. These are burned or thrown out. This concludes the ritual of banishing *hameitz* from our dwellings.

In the morning, recite:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי,
דחזתה ודלא חזתה,
דחמתה ודלא חמתה,
דבערתה ודלא בערתה,
לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא. Kol hamira vahamia d'ika virshuti
dahaziteih udla haziteih,
dahamiteih udla hamiteih,
d'viarteih udla viarteih
libateil v'lehevei hefkeir k'afra d'ara.

All hameitz in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.