



PESACH 2022 GUIDELINES: THIS LETTER AND GUIDELINES WERE WRITTEN FOR MEMBERS OF OUR SHUL ONLY. I ASK THAT IT NOT BE FORWARDED TO ANYONE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

To my dear brothers and sisters 'שיח'י,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits.

In past years, we were faced with unprecedented circumstances that many Rabanim felt the need to allow for certain leniencies that would not be typically allowed under normal conditions. Throughout our history, Pesach has been a time for added stringencies and Chumras. These sacred customs need to be cherished and followed, especially family Minhagim – even when they exceed the letter of the law. According to some Mefarshim, it was the Zechus of these added stringencies that earned our redemption from Mitzrayim.

Thankfully this year things have been restored to somewhat normalcy and these Minhagim need to be embraced, perhaps with even greater appreciation.

PREPARING THE HOME FOR PESACH

First and foremost, Pesach cleaning is **not** spring cleaning. Dirt and dust are not of ANY concern. We are NOT concerned with crumbs on floors that cannot come into contact with food. Similarly, any remnants of Chametz that have been rendered inedible by cleaning agents are also not concerning.

Open areas only need to be washed with a cleaning agent. Scratching out moldings, cracks and grouted areas between tiles is NOT necessary.

Walls do NOT have to be washed.

Any room or closets (i.e. guest rooms, closets in specific rooms, cabinets with Chametz dishes, toy closets, storage rooms) **that will not be used on Pesach** do not need to be cleaned or checked for Chametz. These areas, especially those that contain Chametz dishes etc., need to be clearly marked, taped up and sold with the Chametz.

Any area that is difficult to reach and or requires a screw removal to get to, (i.e. under and behind refrigerators, dishwashers, inside vents), does not need to be cleaned. One needs to clean only as far as one's hand or vacuum cleaner can reach.

WHO CAN BE TRUSTED TO CLEAN?

Anyone over the age of Bas or Bar Mitzvah that understands what is expected of them.

A non-Jewish helper can clean and be trusted if they have established themselves as meticulous and attentive cleaners. If they are observed or if their work is checked is also sufficient.



TEVILAS KEILIM

Being that in past years some of us were “Mafkir” our Keilim, we would need to reacquire them and Toivel them this year - with a Beracha.

All metal, glass, utensils that come into direct contact with food require Tevilah with a Beracha. Corkscrews and the likes that do not come into direct contact with food do not need to be Toiveled. Cleaned for normal use, Stickers off, complete immersion in one shot. (china)

KASHERING

In order to use our kitchens, ovens, pots, pans and cutlery etc. we need to Kasher them.

COUNTERTOPS: Should be wiped down and covered. Ideally with something hard but any type of covering i.e. silver foil or contact paper is sufficient.

OVENS: Clean the inside face of oven door as well as the gasket-sealer on the oven door.

Self-cleaning ovens are easiest. Take the stove top grates and place inside the oven. The grates will be Kashered simultaneously with the oven. Run the self-cleaning feature and your oven is ready. (This may cause discoloring on grates. Another option may be to turn flame on highest and place a clean and completely dry Blech or metal cooking pan (covering entire burner) on each burner individually – or maximum two burners- otherwise oven and screen may melt from heat, for 10 minutes)

Conventional ovens: Ideally one should wait 24 hours before Kashering. Oven should be cleaned well with strong oven cleaner like easy-off. The oven should be turned on to the highest temp for an hour and one half and then on broil for one half hour. After this is done, the racks should be covered with heavy duty silver foil. (Practically it is advised to puncture some holes in the silver foil, in between the actual racks to allow the oven to cook evenly. Care should be given that no pot directly touches the racks in these ovens)

Stovetops should be cleaned very well.

ELECTRIC STOVETOP: Top should be cleaned well. Electric elements should be turned on MAX HEAT (highest temperature possible) and after they turn red-hot, place a wide pot (with water in it so as not to burn the pot) in order to spread the heat to the chrome rings - for 10 minutes.

FLAT GLASS STOVETOP: Clean well. Run on highest for 10 minutes. Being that the areas beyond the heating elements cannot be Kashered, as pouring boiling hot water over them may cause them to crack, one should place cylinders or a few half dollar coins, approximately 1/8th of an inch thick, to elevate pots while cooking. (**CAUTION: The disc or coins should not extend beyond the designated cooking area.**)

STOVES AND HOODS: Knobs and oven hood should be wiped down. No need for added covering.



MICROWAVE very difficult to Kasher. One should acquire a new microwave if possible. Under extraordinary circumstances, one should contact a Rav on how to complete this difficult process.

HOT PLATES-BLECHS: a new one should be acquired for Pesach.

SINKS AND INSTANT HOT WATER SPIGOT:

Ideally one should purchase a sink insert and Kashering would not be necessary.

If a sink insert is not an option, stainless steel sinks can be Kasherred in the following manner: clean the sink well. Do not use the sink with hot water for 24 hours before Kashering. (Perhaps it is worthwhile to turn off hot water under the sink to ensure it is not used out of habit or accidentally).

Sink should be completely dry when Kashering.

Boil up a pot (even Chometz'dikeh pot THAT HAS NOT BEEN USED IN 24 HOURS) of water. When water is boiling, (it is suggested to wear a protective glove) pour the boiling water **DIRECTLY** on **EVERY** part of the sink, (runoff water does not Kasher it) including the strainer (which should be cleaned before as well) in its place. Ideally one should pour the boiling water on the faucet and nozzle as well.

Instant hot water spigots (should not be used for 24 hours before Kashering) can be Kasherred along with the sink by pouring boiling hot water on them and turning on the spigot immediately before pouring the hot water.

DISHWASHER Should not be used unless interior is metal and is Kasherred. However, most dishwashers are coated with an enamel interior and cannot be Kasherred for Pesach.

FRYING PAN need new ones.

BECHERS, POTS, SILVERWARE: Ideally one should purchase new pots, silverware and glasses for Pesach. In the event that one cannot, all smooth stainless steel and metals can be Kasherred. (flatware that has deeply grooved designs can be difficult to clean all the crevices and thereby not Kasherred.) Metals should not be used for 24 hours and should be cleaned well. (Pot handles, steak knives and the likes that have an added handle can be tricky and extra care is needed to ensure that it is cleaned extremely well in the connection area-the groove). Boil up a pot (even chometz'dikeh pot THAT HAS NOT BEEN USED IN 24 HOURS) of water. When water is boiling, drop the pot or the pieces of silverware one by one into boiling pot. If necessary, (for large pots etc.) one may Kasher half the pot followed by the other half ensuring that the entire pot was ultimately Kasherred.

It is customary to either rinse or immerse the Kasherred Keilim into **COLD WATER** immediately after the Kashering process.



GLASSES: Ideally one should purchase new drinking glasses for Pesach. In the event that one cannot the Kashering process for glass is as follows as glass cannot endure the heat of the regular Kashering process. The method of Kashering glass (**that was only used for COLD food and drinks and not used in a dishwasher**) is to totally immerse them (best option is in a bathtub) in cold water for 3 consecutive 24 hour periods. Water needs to be drained and refilled every 24 hours.

FOOD PROCESSOR/BLENDERS: New ones need to be bought.

HOT WATER URNS: New one should be bought. In cases of extreme circumstances, a Rav should be consulted. Please note, that many people use these urns for oatmeal and instant soups, as well as to warm Chametz foods on top of them on Shabbos.

WATER COOLERS: **COLD:** should be cleaned and can be used. **HOT:** Should not be used and should be covered.

HIGHCHAIRS: clean well and preferably cover food tray with paper.

TABLES: Need to be covered at all times with a tablecloth. Ideally two coverings (plastic ok) to ensure that table is covered at all times.

DISH TOWELS/OVEN GLOVES: Towels should be washed in a hot cycle and can be used for hands and dishes. **One should not use Chometz'dikeh dish towels with foods in and out of the oven. New oven gloves need to be purchased to handle foods in and out of oven.**

TABLECLOTHS: Smooth unwoven tablecloths can be washed and used for Pesach.

FOOD DRAWERS CABINETS: Clean well. (Ideal to cover with contact paper)

VASES: Wash well inside and out and can be used.

CHAIRS, COUCHES AND STANDS: Wash with a cleaning agent and vacuum as far as vacuum arm reaches. It is NOT necessary to unscrew parts or scratch with toothpicks.

LEICHTER/CANDELABRA AND TRAY: Clean. No need to Kasher or cover.

WASHING CUPS: Clean well and can be used.

BABY BOTTLES: New ones should be bought. On Pesach, they should be washed and stored in bathroom sink due to majority of baby formula containing Kitnius.

REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER: Clean well. Covering shelves and drawers is not necessary.

GARBAGE CANS: Should be shaken out and can be used.

KITCHEN CABINETS/NON FOODS: Clean well.

CLOTHING CLOSETS: Quick check for large pieces of Chometz. No need to be washed down.



BOOKS AND SEFARIM/SHELVES: Sefarim and books that are brought to table should be leafed through. Zemirots and Bentchers should be stored and sold. Bookcases can be vacuumed just in front of the books. No need to remove the books.

COATS AND BRIEFCASES: If not being used on Pesach can be stored and sold with Chametz. Coats that may be used, pockets should be checked for large pieces (size of cheerio or larger) of Chametz.

SUITCASES: Should be checked unless in a closed up closet and sold.

BATHROOMS: Minimal inspection is needed. It is worthwhile to check the medicine cabinet for possible Chametz (health food remedies and the likes).

KITNIYOS: There is no need to sell Kitniyos. Although many baby formulas contain Kitniyos, they are permissible for babies. Care should be given that they are not washed in the kitchen sink. It is suggested to wash and store them in the bathroom sink.

Adults and children that have specific dietary restrictions should consult a Rav about whether Kitniyos is allowed or not.

MILK: Many non-Cholov Yisroel milks also have Pesach certification. If one cannot find and feels the need to use these milks, they should be purchased **BEFORE** Pesach.

EGGS/FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Can be bought in any store and do not need Pesach supervision.

COSMETICS: Many people have the custom to buy cosmetics from lists of Pesach approved products. This includes lotions, soaps, shampoos, (**SOME SHAMPOOS AND LOTIONS HAVE WHEAT OR OATS IN THE INGREDIENTS AND SHOULD NOT BE USED**) deodorant, and all makeup including lipstick. **PURELL CAN BE USED ON PESACH.** Perfumes and colognes should be verified if they are Chametz - alcohol free. If one needs to go and buy new cosmetics, they should obviously try to buy the approved products – if they are readily available.

TOOTHPASTE SHOULD BE KOSHER L'PESACH. Some of the acceptable brands are: Aim (all), Aquafresh, Closeup (all), Colgate (all), Pepsodent (all) and Ultrabrite (all), among others.

MOUTHWASH SHOULD BE KOSHER L'PESACH. Some of the acceptable brands are: Listerine cool mint antiseptic, Listerine total care zero, Listerine ultra clean antiseptic, Listerine zero and Scope (all).



BEDIKAS CHAMETZ: Needs to be done at night.

ANYONE WHO IS LEAVING THEIR HOME BEFORE THURSDAY NIGHT, WOULD NEED TO MAKE BEDIKAS CHOMETZ THE NIGHT PRIOR TO LEAVING. NO BERACHA IS SAID AND NO TEN PIECES OF BREAD NEED TO BE PLACED. ONE WOULD ALSO NEED TO MAKE BEDIKAS CHOMETZ IN THE HOUSE – ROOM WHERE THEY WILL BE ON THURSDAY NIGHT WITH A BERACHA, AND PLACING THE TEN PIECES OF BREAD.

THERE IS AN OPTION TO SELL YOUR CHAMETZ, WITH A SPECIAL SALE WHICH WILL BE DONE BEFORE THURSDAY NIGHT, TO CLEAR YOU OF DOING BEDIKAS CHOMETZ IN YOUR HOUSE, ONLY IF YOU WILL BE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN DO A PROPER BEDIKA ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

Ideally one should Daven Maariv before Bedikas Chametz.

It is customary to hide ten pieces of Chametz for Bedikas Chametz. The pieces should be wrapped and noted where they are hidden.

The Berachos should be said and there should be no talking or interruptions that are not Bedika related.

Any adult that is being enlisted to help with the Bedika should be present at the time of the Beracha.

A hand held light is used and a flashlight is sufficient. Some suggest to just make the Berachos with a candle and begin with a superficial Bedika and then switch to a flashlight as it is safer and more conducive for checking in tighter areas.

One does not need to search for crumbs. The primary focus of the Bedika is to find unknown Chametz that is respectable in size i.e. the size of a cheerio or larger.

Any room or closets (i.e. guest rooms, closets in specific rooms, cabinets with Chametz dishes, toy closets, storage rooms) **that will not be used on Pesach** do not need to be checked for Chametz. These areas, especially those that contain Chametz dishes etc., need to be clearly marked, taped up and sold with the Chametz.

Any area that Chametz was never brought into, i.e. an attic or boiler room, does not need to be checked. Homes with young children may need to be concerned that food was brought into all accessible rooms, unless known otherwise.

Clothing, linen, towel drawers and closets that one does not bring Chametz into, do not have to be checked. However, the shelves or drawers that are reachable to young children should be checked.

Any area that is difficult to reach and or requires a screw removal to get to, (i.e. under and behind



refrigerators, dishwashers, inside vents), does not need to be checked. One needs to check only as far as ones' hand or vacuum cleaner can reach. Heavy items, such as flat couches, breakfronts, ovens and refrigerators do need to be moved to check under them for Chametz.

One should check his car for Chametz on the night of Bedikas Chametz.

After completing the Bedika, Kol Chamira should be said. If one does not understand what he is saying, it should be said in English.

Please be aware that there are two versions of Kol Chamirah, one for after the Bedika (to be said now) and one for after Bi'ur (to be said tomorrow).

EREV PESACH - one should shave, get a haircut, cut nails and do laundry before Chatzos.

TAANIS BECHOR-SIYUM: Halacha requires that all first born males fast on Erev Pesach. Even "Ketanim" under the age of Bar Mitzvah are included in this and it is customary for the father (who is not a Bechor) to fast in place of his son. However, it is customary for them to participate in a Siyum of a Masechta, usually done in Shul, and be allowed to partake in the Seudas Mitzva. Ideally one should try and make a Siyum himself.

One should ensure that all Chametz that is being sold, should be put away before the Zman of Bi'ur Chametz as the sale will be happening by then.

BURNING CHAMETZ: The burning of the Chametz is done on Friday morning and the **second** Kol Chamira is then said.

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND THROW OUT WHATEVER CHAMETZ ONE PLANS ON GETTING RID OF, ON GARBAGE DAY OR IN A PUBLIC DUMPSTER.

OUTDOOR GARBAGE: Being that we own our outdoor garbage bins (they are not township owned as in some places) one needs to make sure that no Chametz is put in them after the Zman. If one has garbage bags with Chametz, they should either find a public dumpster or place the bags on the street. No edible (for a dog) Chametz should be in them, even on the bottom. One should pour bleach or ammonia in them to poison any Chametz that may be on bottom.

VACUUM BAGS Need to be thrown out before Pesach.

■ RABBI ARI LEVITAN

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בס"ד

