



# Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: [rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide](http://rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide).

## EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

## IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above *kitniyot*.

## PERMITTED FOODS:

- The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.
- The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).
- The following products require reliable ("kosher l'Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l'Pesach") certification.
- Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.
- Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

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## BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

- Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.
- Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.
- Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:  
*Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheyinu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.*  
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.
- Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.
- Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)
- On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:  
*All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.*  
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)