

EMET SEFARDIC  
**PESACH**  
**PREP**  
**GUIDE**  
— 2026 —

# Pesach Cleaning

For your personal Pesach questions feel free to call or text



**Rabbi Binyamin Yuhanan 845-825-7906**  
THE EARLIER YOU CALL OR TEXT,  
THE BETTER!

Please note that there is an active, year round, Sefardic halacha WhatsApp group run by Rabbi Yuhanan, where anyone can ask pre-Pesach or year-round halacha questions. Please text Rabbi Yuhanan 845-825-7906 to be added.

## General Pesach Cleaning Notes

### Chametz throughout the House

All property and possessions must be cleaned and checked to make sure that they are free of all Chametz, except in the following cases:

- A. If there is an area/room into which Chametz is never brought during the year, it does not have to be cleaned out or checked for Chametz.
- B. Any article, which is not used on Pesach and which is put away or sold need not be checked for Chametz. (You can sell the toaster oven with all the crumbs inside it.)
- C. Crumbs which have been rendered inedible to the extent that they are not fit to be eaten by a dog are not considered Chametz, e.g. by applying detergent.
- D. When cleaning rooms other than the kitchen, we are primarily concerned with a piece of food that is large enough that someone might pick it up and eat it (i.e. Cheerio-size or larger).

### Utensils/Cutlery Not Used on Pesach

Whatever pots, pans, dishes and cutlery will not be koshered and used on Pesach, should be put away with the Chametz which will be sold. There is no need to clean them if they are going to be sold.

### Dish Towels and Tablecloths

Regular dish towels and tablecloths may be used if they are washed with detergent.

### Frozen Chametz

Chametz which is being sold can remain in the freezer but it should be wrapped and kept in a separate section, preferable at the bottom of the freezer.

### Clothing

If clothing has been washed with detergent, then there is no need to worry, even if you find crumbs in it on Pesach. Pockets of clothes not being washed or dry-cleaned need to be quickly checked for Chametz. Of course, clothes, which will not be worn on Pesach can be put away without being checked if all the actual Chametz in them is sold.

### Vacuum Cleaner

Don't forget to clean the vacuum cleaner and empty out the vacuum cleaner bag before Pesach. (You may also sell your vacuum cleaner with the Chametz.)

### Garbage Cans (for the curb side)

Who does the garbage can belong to? YOU! Therefore, one should ensure that all the Chametz that is put in the garbage can is not fit for a dog to eat, i.e. pour bleach over the Chametz. Or be sure not to put Chametz in the garbage can after the last pickup before Erev Pesach.

### Chametz that was not sold

If Chametz was inadvertently not sold, it may not be eaten after Pesach. (Liquor, etc.)

## Pesach Kitchen Cleaning for Sefardim

by Aish Sefardic Fellowships, modified by Rabbi Binyamin Yuhanan, Emet Outreach

**Consult a competent Rabbi for any questions or clarifications.  
All of these halachot are in accordance with Rav Ovadia Yosef.**

### 1) INTRODUCTION

The Torah states that no Chametz is to be seen by a Jew during Pesach, and no Chametz is to remain in a Jew's possession during the festival. The Torah says Parshat Shemot (12:1): "...for seven days leaven shall not be found in your houses," and (13:7): "Chametz shall not be seen with you...". These sources refer to cleaning one's house and utensils before Pesach. If one does not properly clean his utensils and uses them on Pesach, the food may become forbidden, and he may commit a transgression. We are looking to rid ourselves of two things: Chametz - food made of fermented grain. Se'or - an inedible sourdough, which has the power to ferment another dough. The process of cleansing utensils is called kashering.

There are numerous ways to kasher utensils [they are listed below by their level of effectiveness.] The source of kashering dishes comes from the following pasuk (Bamidbar 31:23) "Any utensil that is used in fire, pass it through fire, and that which does not go in fire, pass it through water." It is from here that our sages learn the topic "Ke'bol'oh Kach Polto" - The way that Chametz/non-kosher food enters into the pot, is the way that it goes out.

- I. Libun - Burning with fire until sparks come out of the utensil
- II. Hagala - Immersing in bubbling boiling water that is on fire
- III. Iruy - Pouring boiling water on the utensil
- V. Washing with soap and wiping clean

### 2) HOW TO KASHER YOUR KITCHEN

#### Oven

If the oven has the self-cleaning feature, that is sufficient to clean the oven.

If not, one should clean it thoroughly and abstain from usage for a 24-hour period, after which turn it on the highest setting for 1 hour. (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 1)

#### Microwave

Do not use for 24 hours before koshering.

Clean it thoroughly.

Place a glass cup or bowl inside with water and soap.

Turn the microwave on for enough time that it will become filled with steam, and wipe it clean.

If the glass tray inside is made of glass it only needs to be wiped clean.

# Pesach Cleaning

## Stove top (Non-Electric)

**Stove grates** – You have 3 options:

**Option 1:** Clean the stove grates and place them in the oven while self-cleaning the oven. (If there is a rubber component, it may be damaged)

**Option 2:** Do the following process **one grate at a time** (so the intense heat will not damage your stove): Clean the grate. Cover the top of the grate with aluminum foil (thick if possible). Raise the burner to the maximum heat. The aluminum foil will spread the heat throughout the burner. Keep the flame on for 2 minutes. Your grate is now kosher for Pesach.

**Option 3: (Useful for Large Grates)** Wash grate with soap. Place grate in sink. Pour boiling water over the grate. You may do this part by part.

**Burners** (the element through which fire comes out of) – if they are detachable clean them and place them in the oven while kashering the oven. If they are not detachable, just clean them well, and then turn them on to make sure you burn out any food.

The top of the stove, however, is a different story. In reality, that surface is always non-kosher, because it is splashed with milk and meat. Consequently, Pesach food cannot touch your stovetop and it must be covered. The easiest way is to take aluminum foil and cover the whole stove top. Use the heavy-duty kind so it does not tear. However if you prefer, you may kasher the stovetop by pouring boiling water over the surface (and then it does not need to be covered). (Torat HaMoadim pg. 236) Note: With older stovetops that do not have sealed burners, make sure to clean thoroughly under the tray where edible Chametz lurks unnoticed.

## Stovetop (Electric)

Clean the stovetop.

Turn on each electric burner to the maximum heat.

It is easier to cover the surface of the stovetop with aluminum foil. However if you prefer, you may kasher the stovetop by pouring boiling water over the surface (and then it does not need to be covered).

## Plata

An electric warming tray (plata) should be cleaned as well as possible, and if you want to use it for Pesach, cover it over with heavy-duty aluminum foil that won't tear. As for a metal burner cover (blech), that should be kashered with lruy (see below) or totally covered. It makes more sense to buy a thin blech especially for Pesach; otherwise heavy-duty aluminum foil should suffice although it may emit harmful and unpleasant fumes.

## Dishwasher

Clean thoroughly from Chametz (including filters/traps).

Don't use for 24 hours.

Turn on the dishwasher and run an empty cycle with hot water and detergent. (Torat HaMoadim pg. 246)

## Sink

Preferably do not use hot Chametz for 24 hours prior. If not, clean the sink thoroughly with a strong detergent. Wipe the sink dry. Boil water in a clean kettle/pot and pour the water on the surface of the sink, preferably beginning in the center of the sink and circling outward. Go slowly and let the stream of water hit each spot. Pour on the faucet, as well. It is highly preferable to use a dish rack.

## Counters

**Option 1:** Clean with soap and cover.

**Option 2:** Clean with soap and kasher by pouring boiling water.

**Option 3:** Clean with soap and do not place food directly on it on Pesach.

## Hot Water Urn

The hot water urn may be rinsed clean, unless Chametz was placed on it - then it needs Hagala (Torat HaMoadim pg. 245). Also wash the spout.

## 3) GUIDE FOR PESACH UTENSILS

Utensils which may be used for preparation and/or serving of the Pesach meals without any additional modification:

1. Were bought new and are unused
2. Were only used for previous Pesachs
3. Were kashered and then designated only for Pesach

**All other utensils that are used all year round MAY NOT be used for preparation and/or serving of food during Pesach.**

### Porcelain

Utensils made of Clay or Porcelain may not be kashered (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 7).

### Glass

Glass, Pyrex, Duralex, and Corelle do not need to be kashered. Just wash with soap (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 10).

### A. Libun - Burning directly with fire

If items are used with Chametz and come into direct contact with fire without any intermediary (such as water or oil), the only way to remove the Chametz is through fire.

Examples: Skewers or bar-b-q grates, that Chametz is placed on, and bread- and cake-baking trays and pans.

(A tray that is used only for storage is in a different category.)

Note: This method of kashering is generally not used on Pesach, and one is encouraged to use new utensils (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 1)

### B. Hagala - Immersing in boiling hot water

**INSTRUCTIONS:** First, make sure the items are completely clean. Utensils that will be kashered should not be used for 24 hours prior to kashering. Then, fill up a big pot with water (make sure to use a pot that was not used in the last 24 hours). The water should start boiling. Completely immerse the utensil to be kashered in the water. Since the metal item lowers the water temperature somewhat, the utensil needs to remain submerged long enough so that the water starts boiling again. Thirty seconds is the optimum time for the submerged item to remain in the boiling water. However, if one leaves the utensil in the boiling water any longer, it is ok. Immerse the cleansed utensils in cold water immediately after kashering them. Utensils that can be kashered this way are:

- Metal bowls that are used to cook
- Metal pots and pans
- Frying pan
- Serving utensils that are placed into the pot to take out hot food

It is recommended that any small objects that are in need of kashering, such as silverware, etc. should be immersed as well. (Even though one can use a more lenient approach, many times this is easier and is able to ensure a more effective kashering process.) (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 2)

### C. Iruy

Pouring boiling water from a kettle onto the utensil. One should make sure that the bubbling boiling water reaches every point of the item. (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 5) The utensils include:

- Serving bowls
- Anything that does not come into direct contact with fire rather, the food is placed into them from the pot, counter tops, plastic baby bottle, and silverware
- Shabbat Blech

## D. Washing with Soap

The following items require only wiping/rinsing to assure that they are free of Chametz (Chazon Ovadia Pesach Laws of Hagala: 6):

- Refrigerator/freezer and the trays inside (use soap/detergent)
- Cabinets in which Pesach food and utensils are placed (use soap/detergent)
- garbage can
- utensils made of glass, Pyrex, Corelle
- Kiddush cups
- chairs
- toothbrushes (although it is better to acquire a new one)
- hot water urn (provided that no Chametz was placed on top of it)
- salt shaker
- dentures

E. There are other appliances that we do not use on Pesach. These include a toaster, toaster oven, and mixer – things that you use for bread and cake all year long. Although it may be possible to kasher these things, it's difficult and we do not do it.

## 4) MEDICINE

All pill medications-with or without Chametz-that one swallows whole are permitted. Vitamins and food supplements do not fall into this category. Please consult a competent Rabbi whether your specific condition, qualifies you to take vitamins or supplements.

Liquid and chewable medications that may contain Chametz (alcohol, starch) should only be used under the direction of a doctor and competent rabbi who would qualify the severity of the illness, the likelihood that the medication contains Chametz and the possibility of a substituting it with non-chewing pill. Please also check page R16 which has a few common liquid and chewable medicines that are known to be Kosher for Passover.

NOTE: PLEASE, do not discontinue taking liquid, chewable or any other medicine that you are taking without consulting with your doctor and Rabbi.

# *Sale of Chametz*

## 5) SALE OF CHAMETZ

One of the institutions of traditional Jewish life for Passover is the “Sale of Chametz.” The Torah does not allow Jews to eat Chametz during the week of Passover. However, we are also forbidden to possess Chametz during Pesach. (The Rabbis invested a great deal of ingenuity and creativity in structuring a method to sell Chametz so it will be truly legal -- and yet the Jew will be protected and be able to repurchase the Chametz after Passover.)

**IMPORTANT:** Every Jewish household **MUST** do one of the following so that you will not own Chametz during Passover:

1. Contact your personal rabbi to sell your chametz

**OR**

2. Go to [emetoutreach.org/pesach](http://emetoutreach.org/pesach) and click on the SELL YOUR CHAMETZ button (will be ready soon), fill out the Sale of Chametz google form found there and submit according to instructions, anytime between now and Thursday, April 10th at 9 p.m.

**It is highly recommended to take care of this as early as possible so you don't forget.**

**NOTE:** Even after one arranges the Sale of Chametz, one may still access and use **ALL** chametz until the actual Sale of Chametz, which will not take place until **11 AM on Friday, April 11th, 2025**

**Note:** You may help parents to do this, but they should be aware of what you are doing.

# Important Zmanim/Times for the Pesach Festival 2026

## Times for Queens, NY

### Tuesday, March 31st: Search for Chametz

- After dark, 7:35 PM or later

### Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: The latest time to EAT any Chametz

- 10:25 AM (M" A commonly used by Sefardim)
- 10:52 AM (Gra; commonly used by Ashkenazim.  
Can be used by Sefardim for sick and children)

**Consumption of Chametz after this time is PROHIBITED!**

### Wednesday, April 1st: Sell and Burn Chametz before

- 11:43 AM (M" A commonly used by Sefardim)
- 11:55 AM (Gra; commonly used by Ashkenazim.  
Can be used by Sefardim if missed earlier time)  
See prayer on reverse side.

### Candlelighting Wednesday, April 1st, the first night of Pesach:

- 7:03 PM

### Candlelighting Thursday, April 2nd, the second night of Pesach

- (from Existing Flame) 8:04 PM or later. (42 min. after sunset)  
or 7:47 PM acco. to Rav Yisraeli

### Candlelighting Friday, April 3rd, for Shabbat:

- (from Existing Flame) 7:05 PM or earlier

# Important Zmanim/Times for the Pesach Festival 2026

## Bedikat Chametz: The Search for Chametz

**BEDIKAT CHAMETZ IS CONDUCTED ON THE EVENING BEFORE PASSOVER. THIS YEAR IT'S DONE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2026.**

**EVERY JEW MUST SEARCH AND ASCERTAIN THAT THERE IS NOT ANY CHAMETZ LEFT IN HIS POSSESSION.**

### How the Search is Conducted:

- Ten small pieces of bread are placed in various places in the house prior to starting Bedikat Chametz.
- Wrap them in paper, plastic, or foil. Someone must remember where they are! It is best to write a list.
- Approximately twenty minutes after **sunset (7:35 PM Tuesday, March 31st, 2026)** the father (head of the household) or his representative should search for Chametz.
- Before starting to search, recite the Beracha "Al Biur Chametz" and begin searching.
- All who want to assist him in checking the other parts of the house should be present when he recites the Beracha.
- The text of the Beracha is:

ברוך אתה אדו-ני א-לוהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על ביעור חמץ

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam Asher Ki-de-sha-nu Bemitz-vo-tav Ve-tzi-va-nu Al Bi-ur Chametz

Blessed are You, Lord, Our God, King of the Universe

Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us about the destruction of Chametz.

- **All Chametz found should be put into a container**
- **After the search, the head of household should recite Kol Chamira (renunciation of ownership of Chametz) in any language that he understands:**

כל חמירא דאיכא ברשותי דלא חזיתיה ודלא ביערתיה לבטיל ולהוי כעפרא דארעא

Anything leavened which is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor destroyed

shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

- **Put aside these pieces of Chametz to burn them in the morning (Wednesday, April 1st, 2026)**
- **The Chametz that was found during Bedikat Chametz and any leftover Chametz should be destroyed by 11:43 AM**
- **Chametz is customarily burned in fire**
- **After it has been burnt, it is annulled by reciting again:**

כל חמירא דאיכא ברשותי דלא חזיתיה ודלא ביערתיה לבטיל ולהוי כעפרא דארעא

Anything leavened which is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor destroyed,

shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

# A GUIDE TO THE SEDER MITZVA REQUIREMENTS \*FOR SEFARDIC JEWS

*It is very important for every adult over Bar / Bat Mitzvah to be careful to do the obligatory mitzvot of the Seder on both Seder nights*

**There are seven mitzvot that we must perform at the Seder both nights. The pages that follow each explain one Seder mitzva in detail.**

**Two mitzvot are from the Torah:**

- 1) Telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt (*see Haggadah page, R2*)
- 2) Eating matzah at 3 specific times (*see Matza page, R3*)

**There are also 5 Rabbinical mitzvot that must be done:**

- 3) Eating Maror - bitter herbs (*see Maror page, R5*)
- 4) Eating the Afikomen- an extra piece of matzah for dessert, as a reminder of the Passover offering (*see Matza page, R3*)
- 5) Saying Hallel (Psalms of praise)
  - a) Be sure to say the 3 paragraphs before the 2nd cup of wine (which are said immediately before washing the hands for Matza)
  - b) Be sure to say the rest of Hallel immediately after Birkat Hamazon/Grace after Meals
- 6) Drinking the Four Cups of wine (*see 4 Cups of Wine page, R4*)
- 7) Demonstrating acts of freedom and aristocracy — e.g. sitting with a pillow or cushion and leaning as we eat and drink, and beginning the meal "with a dip."

# Haggadah

## Seder Mitzva Requirements - for Sefardic Jews:

**It is preferable to say as much of the Haggadah as possible. If you are not saying the whole Haggadah**  
**THIS PAGE IS ESSENTIAL, to be said on both nights.**

רבן גמליאל היה אומר: כל שלא אמר שלשה דברים אלו בפסח, לא יצא ידי חובתו, ואלו הן

פסח, מצה, ומרור.

Rabban Gamliel would teach that all those who had not spoken of three things on Passover had not fulfilled their obligation to tell the story, and these three things are:

### The Pascal Lamb. Matza and Maror

*Point to the shank bone:*

פסח שהיו אבותינו אוכלים בזמן שבית המקדש היה קיים, על שום מה? על שום שפסח הקדוש ברוך הוא על בתי אבותינו במצרים, שנאמר: ואמרתם זבח פסח הוא לה' אשר פסח על בתי בני ישראל במצרים. בנגפו את מצרים, ואת בתינו הציל? ויקד העם וישתחוו.

The Pesah which our ancestors ate when the Second Temple stood: what is the reason for it? They ate the Pesah because the holy one, Blessed be He "passed over" the houses of our ancestors in Egypt, as it is written in the Torah: "And You shall say, 'It is the Passover offering for Adonai, who passed over the houses of the Israelites saving us in Mitzrayim but struck the houses of the Egyptians.

*Point to the matza:*

מצה זו שאנו אוכלים, על שום מה? על שום שלא הספיק בצקם של אבותינו להחמיץ עד שנגלה עליהם מלך מלכי המלכים, הקדוש ברוך הוא, וגאלם, שנאמר: ויאפו את הבצק אשר הוציאו ממצרים עגת מצות, כי לא חמץ, כי גרשו ממצרים ולא יכלו להתמהמה, וגם צדה לא עשו להם.

Matzah - what does it symbolize in the Seder? There was insufficient time for the dough of our ancestors to rise when the holy one, Blessed be He was revealed to us and redeemed us, as it is written in the Torah: "And they baked the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt into matzah – cakes of unleavened bread – which had not risen, for having been driven out of Egypt they could not tarry, and they had made no provisions for themselves."

*Point to the maror:*

מרור זה שאנו אוכלים, על שום מה? על שום שמררו המצרים את חיי אבותינו במצרים, שנאמר: וימררו את חייהם בעבדה קשה, בחמר ובלבנים ובכל עבדה בשדה את כל עבדתם אשר עבדו בהם בפרך

Why do we eat Maror? For the reason that the Egyptians embitter the lives of our ancestors in Mitzrayim, as the Torah states: "And they embittered their lives with servitude, with mortar and bricks without straw, with every form of slavery in the field and with great torment."

# Matza

## Seder Mitzva Requirements - for Sefardic Jews:

**THERE ARE 3 TIMES DURING THE SEDER WHEN WE MUST EAT MATZA AS A MITZVA...**

### 1. MATZA: First Time We Eat Matza at the Seder

#### The Seder Leader (and Anyone Else with 3 Matzot):

Eats **1 Kezayit** from the top Matza **and also 1 more Kezayit** from the middle Matza.

#### All Others at the Seder:

Eat **1 Kezayit** Measurement of Matza.

### 2. KORECH: Sandwich of Matza and Maror

All at the Seder eat **1 Kezayit** Measurement of Matza.

### 3. AFIKOMAN: Last Thing Eaten Right Before Birkat Hamazon (Grace After Meal)

#### The Seder Leader (and Anyone Else with 3 Matzot):

Eats a little from the Afikoman and **2 Kezayit Measurements** in total from any Matza on the table.

#### All Others at the Seder:

Eat **1 Kezayit** Measurement of Matza.

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Try to finish the matza within 6-7 min. (without a break) each time it's a mitzva (up to 9 min.)
- If difficult, may sip some water while chewing
- Time begins when swallowing begins
- Relax and do your best
- Lean comfortably to the left (Men must, Women should)
- **Elderly and sick individuals can use 16 grams, a more lenient measurement of Kezayit throughout the seder.**  
**(If someone is very sick, please consult a Rabbi for guidelines.)**

### How much is a Kezayit?

(for Sefardic Jews)

1 Kezayit:  
= 20 Grams  
= 2/3 Machine Matza  
= 1/3 Round Matza

There is a stricter measure of Kezayit:  
= 28 Grams  
= 1 Ounce  
= 1 Machine Matza  
= 1/2 Round Matza

# 4 Cups of Wine

## Seder Mitzva Requirements - for Sefardic Jews:

- 1 At the Seder, every Jew should drink four cups of wine corresponding to the four expressions of freedom mentioned in the Torah (Exodus 6: 6-7).
- 2 Since we are free people this evening, nobody should pour their own wine, but rather each person should pour for another — as if we are royalty who have servants.
- 3 It is best to use red wine, since this alludes to the blood spilled by Pharaoh, the blood as part of the Ten Plagues, and the blood the Jews put on their doorposts.
- 4 Someone who has difficulty drinking wine may use grape juice, but should add a little wine so that the taste of alcohol is detectable.
- 5 Everyone should have their own wine cup which must contain a revi'it (3 oz.).
- 6 It is preferable to finish the cup or at least to drink most of the cup.  
Hint: Don't use a cup much larger than 3 oz.!
- 7 It is required to drink at least 2 ounces preferably without interruption. However, if one can't, slower is ok.
- 8 As an expression of freedom, the Sages enacted leaning to the side while drinking the Four Cups of wine. Everyone should lean to the left and back!

# Maror

## Seder Mitzva Requirements - for Sefardic Jews:

One is required to eat Maror two separate times during the seder.

1. The first time we make a bracha on the Maror

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מָרוֹר

*Ba'ruch Ata A'do'nai E'lo'he'nu Melech ha'o'lam ah'sher kideshanu bemitz'vo'tav vetzivanu al a'chi'lat ma'ror.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us in His commandments and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

2. The second time is when we eat a sandwich of matzah and maror. This is called Korech.

זָכַר לְמִקְדָּשׁ כְּהִלֵּל. כֵּן עָשָׂה הַלֵּל בְּזִמְנֵן שֶׁבֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הָיָה קַיָּם: הָיָה כּוֹרֵךְ מַצָּה וּמָרוֹר וְאוֹכֵל בְּיַחַד, לְקַיָּם מָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: עַל מַצּוֹת וּמָרוֹרִים יֹאכְלֵהוּ

*Zeicher l'mikdash k'Hillel. Kein asah Hillel bizman shebeit hamikdash hayah kayam. Hayah koreich pesach, matzah, umaror v'ocheil b'yachad. L'kayeim mah sheneemar. "Al matzot u'mororim yochluhu."*

Thus did Hillel do at the time of the Bet HaMikdash: He would combine Passover lamb, Matzah, and Maror and eat them together, as it is said: "They shall eat it with Matzah and bitter herbs."

Sefardic Jews use Romaine lettuce during the seder when we eat the Maror. Be sure to use either:

- a) one ounce of Romaine lettuce weighed on a food scale OR
- b) 3 medium to large Romaine lettuce leaves

Both of these choices will yield a halachically sufficient amount of Romaine lettuce for Maror.

# SELLING YOUR CHAMETZ

**IMPORTANT**

Every Jewish household **MUST** do one of the following so that you will not own Chametz during Passover (e.g. whiskey, bread, or other leftover Chametz).

**IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO YOU DON'T FORGET.**

NOTE: Even after one arranges the Sale of Chametz, one may still access and use ALL chametz until the actual Sale of Chametz, which will not take place until  
11 AM on Wednesday April 1st, 2026

Note: You may and should help parents to do this, but they should be aware of what you are doing.

There are 2 ways to do this! Choose 1 way:

1. Contact your personal rabbi to sell your chametz OR
2. The Sale of Chametz form through Rabbi Yitzhak Israeli will be ready two weeks before Pesach/Passover. We will try to link to it when available at [emetoutreach.org/pesach](https://emetoutreach.org/pesach). Fill it out and follow website instructions to submit. This must be submitted by Tuesday, March 31st, at 9 PM the latest. But it can be submitted earlier and that is recommended! You do NOT need to be done cleaning to submit this form. Just decide where you will keep your Chametz over Pesach/Passover and write WHERE your Chametz will be kept over Pesach/Passover and submit as soon as possible.

# RICE FOR PESACH 2026

*\*For Sefardic Jews*

- 1 Kokuho rice is permitted (both yellow and red).
- 2 Any unenriched (not enriched) rice is permitted on Pesach (for example: jasmine, basmati and brown rice)
- 3 White Rice must be checked for other possible grains one time prior to use. Brown rice must be checked three times.

It is best to do this prior to Pesach.

If it was not done, it may be done on the holiday, but only the amount that one needs to use may be checked.

**PESACH  
PRODUCT  
INFORMATION**  
— 2026 —

# FOOD ITEMS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SPECIAL CERTIFICATION



As per CRC 2026 (Chicago Rabbinical Council) and

Including JSOR 2026 Sefardic Additions, and OU 2026 Additions

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1: Food that is Acceptable without Passover Certification should be purchased before Passover.**
- 2: Food that is Acceptable without Passover Certification will still require Kosher Certification if it requires Kosher Certification year-round.**

**Baking soda:** Acceptable without Passover Certification

**Cocoa Powder:** Acceptable if 100% pure and not processed in Europe.

Hershey's cocoa powder (not all Hershey's products) is acceptable in 2026 with OU alone, does not require OU-P.

**Coffee:** 1. Beans which are plain, unflavored, and not decaffeinated do not require Passover Certification, but the grinder must be clean.

2. Ground, instant, flavored or decaffeinated coffee requires Passover Certification.

3. K-cups require Passover Certification.

4. Specific brands that are acceptable without Passover Certification in 2026 as per OU: **Folgers Instant: Classic Roast, Regular Nescafe Instant: Taster's Choice Regular**

**Coffee filters:** Acceptable without Passover Certification

**Eggs:** Whole and raw (including pasteurized) are acceptable without Passover Certification.

Cooked or liquid require Passover Certification.

**Fish:** Fresh is acceptable without Passover Certification. Rinse well with cold water before use.

Canned, frozen or processed requires Passover Certification.

**Fruit:** Fresh fruit is acceptable without Passover Certification. Frozen fruit is acceptable without Passover Certification if not sweetened or cooked and contains no additives. If the only additional ingredient is sugar, that is ok.

**Fruit juice:** Pure frozen concentrated orange is acceptable without Passover Certification. (Other frozen juices require Passover Certification.)

**Meat/Poultry:** Fresh or frozen raw meat and poultry in original packaging is acceptable without Passover Certification. Rinse before use. Ground or cooked meat and poultry requires Passover certification.

**Milk:** If certified for Passover milk is unavailable, buy milk before Passover.

Lactaid milk may be used if purchased before Passover.

Non-chewable pills are acceptable without Passover certification.

Chewable pills are problematic.

**Nuts:** Roasted nuts and seeds require Passover Certification.

Raw or blanched nuts without additives (such as BHA and BHT) are approved for Passover unless an allergen warning states "packaged in a plant that processes wheat", as those would **not** be approved for Passover (unless specific approval is stated for that company).

\*Kirkland Raw Almonds, Pecans, Pecan Halves, and Walnuts are approved for Passover even with an allergen warning.

\*Wellsley Farms, with OK, Roasted Almonds, are approved for Passover.

**Olive oil:** Extra virgin (unflavored) and light are acceptable without Passover Certification, with an OU or an OK (for Sefardic Jews).

**Oil (cooking):** The following oils are acceptable for Sefardic Jews, with an OU or an OK, without Passover Certification:

Avocado, Canola, Cottonseed, Corn, Grapeseed, Soybean, Sunflower, Safflower, Red Palm, Coconut, Walnut, and Vegetable.

**Salt:** Acceptable without Passover Certification if non-iodized and does not contain other additives.

**Seltzer:** Unflavored seltzer is approved for Passover. Flavored seltzer requires Passover Certification.

**Spices:** Pure whole or ground spices and herbs **except cumin and coriander** are acceptable without Passover Certification (for Sefardic Jews).

**Sugar:** Pure, white cane sugar without additives is acceptable without Passover Certification.

Brown sugar and confectioners' sugar require Passover Certification.

**Tea:** 1. Pure black, green or white tea leaves or tea bags are acceptable without Passover Certification unless they are flavored, instant or decaffeinated, in which case they require Passover Certification.

2. Herbal tea requires Passover Certification.

**Water:** Acceptable without Passover Certification.

Dasani, Kirkland, SmartWater, LifeWater and similar products with minerals or chemical additives, including sodium citrate, are acceptable for Passover as long as they do not contain flavors.

# NON-FOOD ITEMS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SUPERVISION FOR PASSOVER (OR YEAR-ROUND)

Air freshener	Hair gel, spray, mousse
Alcohol - denatured or isopropyl	Hand sanitizer (such as Purell)
Aluminum foil	Isopropyl alcohol
Aluminum baking pans	Laundry detergent and stain remover
Ammonia	Lotion
Baby oil	Mineral oil
Baby ointment	Nail polish and remover
Baby wipes - any	Napkins (paper)
Bags (paper or plastic)	Ointments
Band-aids	Paper towels
Bleach and bleach wipes	Perfume (when produced in the USA)
Body wash	Petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline)
Candles (including scented)	Plastic containers, plastic wrap
Charcoal (Including plain, easy-light, apple, hickory, and mesquite)	Plates (paper, plastic or styrofoam)
Conditioner	Scouring pads and powders
Contact lens solution	Shampoo
Contact paper	Shaving lotion
Crockpot liners	Shoe polish
Cups (paper, plastic or styrofoam)	Silver polish
Dental floss (including waxed, if NOT flavored)	Skin cream
Deodorant	Soaps
Detergent	Sponges (all)
Dishwashing detergent, liquid & powder	Styrofoam products
Dishwashing soap, liquid	Sunscreen
Eye drops	Talcum powder (100% talc)
Fabric protector	Tissues
Fabric softener	Toothpicks (unless flavored or colored)
Furniture polish	Water filters
Gloves	Wax for braces (wash rubber bands before placing in mouth)
Glue	Wax paper

## MEDICATION:

All pills and capsules that are swallowed are allowed. More info on page R15

## PLASTIC DISPOSABLES:

All bags, cups, plates, cutlery, tablecloths, crockpot liners, containers, wraps are allowed.

## COSMETICS:

All are allowed except those that contain oats or wheat.

A new lipstick is not required as long as there is no visible food residue.

## PAPER DISPOSABLES:

All napkins, paper towels, cups, plates, bags, cardboard, cupcake holders are allowed.

## CLEANING PRODUCTS:

All housecleaning products, chemicals, soaps and detergents are allowed including ammonia, bleach, bowl & tub cleaner, carpet cleaner, drain opener, glass cleaner, and oven cleaner.



# Quick Pick Medicine List (Star-K) 2026

*A sample of chometz-free and Kosher medicines listed by category, for USA only, under the brand names indicated. (Source: [Star-k.org/passover](http://Star-k.org/passover))*

**Emet Foreword by Rabbi Binyamin Yuhanan:**

All pill medications, tablet medications and capsule medications - with or without Chametz - **that one swallows whole are permitted.** Vitamins and food supplements do not fall into this category. Please consult a competent Rabbi whether your specific condition qualifies you to take vitamins or supplements.

Liquid and chewable medications that may contain Chametz (alcohol, starch) should only be used under the direction of a doctor and competent rabbi who would qualify the severity of the illness, the likelihood that the medication contains Chametz and the possibility of a substituting it with a non-chewable pill.

**NOTE: PLEASE, do not discontinue taking liquid, chewable or any other medicine that you are taking without consulting with your doctor and Rabbi.**

## COLD, ALLERGY, AND DECONGESTANTS

**Allegra** - 12 Hr Tablets, Children's Allergy 12 Hr Dissolve Tablets (Dairy), Children's Allergy 12 Hr Liquid  
**Allegra-D** - 12 Hr. Tablets  
**Benadryl** - Allergy Ultratab Tablets, Children's Allergy + Congestion Liquid (Grape), Children's Allergy Liquid (Bubblegum Dye-Free, Cherry)  
**Claritin** - 24 Hr. Swallowable Tablets (Dairy)  
**Claritin-D** - 12 Hr. Swallowable Tablets (Dairy), 24 Hr. Swallowable Tablets  
**Zyrtec** - 10 mg Allergy Swallowable Tablets (Dairy), Children's Allergy Syrup (Grape, Bubble Gum)

## GASTROINTESTINAL REMEDIES

**Adwe** - Stool Softener  
**Alka-Seltzer** - Original Effervescent Tablets, Extra Str Effervescent Tablets  
**Dramamine** Tablets - Original (Dairy), Less Drowsy (Dairy), Nausea Long-Lasting (Dairy), Chewable For Kids (Grape)  
**Imodium A-D** - Regular Caplets (Dairy), Oral Solution (Reg. Mint, Mint for Kids)  
**Kaopectate** - Liquid (All Flavors)  
**Konsyl Daily Psyllium Fiber Powder (Regular, Organic)** - (no kitniyos)  
**Metamucil 4-in-1** - Original Coarse Powder - unflavored with real sugar (no kitniyos), Orange Smooth Powder (Regular, Sugar-Free), Premium Blend (Sugar-Free, Orange, Berry)  
**Miralax** (Powder)  
**Pepto Bismol** - Original Liquid (Regular), Ultra Liquid  
**Phillips' Milk of Magnesia** - Original Liquid (no kitniyos)  
**Reese's** - Pinworm Medicine (Liquid) Senokot - Extra Strength Tablets (Dairy), Regular Tablets  
**Senokot** - Extra Strength Tablets (Dairy), Regular Tablets

## PAIN RELIEVERS & FEVER REDUCERS

**Advil Ibuprofen** - Coated Caplets, Coated Tablets  
**Advil** - Caplets, Tablets, Children's Suspension (All Flavors), Infant Drops (All Flavors)  
**Adwe** - FeverX Pain Reliever Acetaminophen (Tablets, Liquids)  
**Aleve** - Caplets, Tablets  
**Bayer Aspirin** - Low-Dose Chwbl. 81mg (Cherry, Orange)  
**Bufferin Aspirin** - Coated Tablets  
**Motrin** - IB Coated Caplets, Children's Liquid (All Flavors), Infants Liquid (Berry, Dye-Free Berry)  
**Tylenol** - Regular Strength Tablets, Extra Strength Caplets, Children's Suspension (All Flavors), Infants Oral Suspension (All Flavors)

**For a full Kosher Sephardic Pesach  
Product list please visit [JSOR.ORG](http://JSOR.ORG)  
and view the  
2026 JSOR PASSOVER GUIDE  
Pages 62-75**

**OU List 2026 of Baby Infant Formula Without Chametz**  
(these contain Kitniyot which is permitted for Sefardic Jews and Ashkenazic babies)

- |                                     |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 365 Everyday Value                  | Gerber Good Start                   | PurAmino                           |
| Ahold                               | Giant                               | Publix                             |
| Berkley & Jensen                    | Giant Eagle Baby                    | RCF                                |
| Bobbie                              | Hannaford                           | Rite Aid                           |
| Bright Beginnings                   | Happy Baby                          | Shopko                             |
| ByHeart Whole Nutrition             | H-E-B                               | Signature Care                     |
| CareOne                             | Heinz Nurture                       | Similac (all liquids, all powders) |
| Comfort                             | Home 360 Baby                       | Simply Right                       |
| Cottontails                         | Isomil (all liquids, all powders)   | Stop & Shop                        |
| CVS                                 | Ketonex                             | Sunrise                            |
| Daily Source                        | Kirkland Signature                  | Supervalu                          |
| Earth's Best                        | Laura Lynn                          | Target                             |
| Else Toddler Organic Plant-Based    | Lidl                                | Tippy Toes by TopCare              |
| Complete Nutrition Toddler Drink 1  | Little Journey                      | Top Care                           |
| Year +                              | Meijer Baby                         | Topco                              |
| Else Toddler Omega Plant-Based      | Member's Mark                       | True Goodness                      |
| Complete & Balanced Nutrition       | Mom to Mom                          | Tyrex                              |
| Toddler Drink 1 Year +              | Mother's Choice                     | Up & Up                            |
| EnfaCare (all liquids, all powders) | Nature's Place                      | Vermont Organics                   |
| Enfagrow (all liquids, all powders) | Nestle Good Start                   | Walgreens                          |
| Enfamil (all liquids, all powders)  | Next Step                           | Wegmans                            |
| Enfaport (all liquids, all powders) | Parent's Choice                     | Well Beginnings                    |
| Food Lion                           | Premier Value                       | Wellsley Farms                     |
| Full Circle                         | President's Choice                  | Western Family                     |
|                                     | Price Chopper                       |                                    |
|                                     | ProSobee (all liquids, all powders) |                                    |

# Tevilat Kelim (Sefardic Custom) Immersion of Vessels in Mikveh

Kitchen utensils, coming into direct contact with food during preparation or meal time, that have been previously owned by a non-Jew, need to be immersed in a mikveh before their first use. Even a single use of a vessel is prohibited prior to immersion.

## Immerse With a Bracha

Metal (Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Cast Iron, Silver, Disposable Aluminum Pans if reused, Silverware, Knives, Food Processor Blade, Lids, Covers, Tea Kettle, Hot Water Urn, Thermos, Vegetable Peeler)

Glass (Glass, Crystal, Pyrex, Corelle, Covers, Cups, Salt Shaker, etc.)

## Immerse Without a Bracha

Enamel or Non-Stick Covered (Teflon, etc) Metal Pots or Baking Pans

Disposable Aluminum Pans if used once (or line with aluminum foil or parchment paper)

Glazed Fine China, Porcelain

## Tevila/Immersion is Not Necessary

Plastic containers, Melamine plates

Wooden spoons, ladles

Earthenware

Stoneware, Silicone

Jewish-made utensils (most Kiddush cups coming from Israel)

Utensils used exclusively with raw, non-edible food (Cookie Cutters, Metal Tenderizer Hammer)

Utensils that don't come into contact with food (Can Opener, Corkscrew, Serving Tray)

Utensils jointly owned by a Jewish and non-Jewish partner

Utensils used commercially (restaurants, caterers, hotels)

## How

Utensils need to be clean, free of dirt, rust, labels or glue, so that nothing will separate any part of the object from the water. Any label or residue that doesn't bother you at all and you will never remove may be left on. The utensils need to be kosher before immersion. They must be completely submerged, and water must enter all inner spaces. Care must be taken that no air is trapped in the submerged vessels. Even one moment underwater is enough. If many utensils are being immersed together, one should immerse the basket and then drop the individual utensils in one by one.

This Bracha must be made before immersing the utensils:

BARUCH ATA A-DO-NAI, E-LO-HENU MELECH HA'OLAM, ASHER KIDESHANU BE'MITZVOTAV VE'TZIVANU AL TEVILAT KELIM!

## When

Tevilah can be done any time of Day or Night. It can not be done on Shabbat or Yom Tov.

## Where

Beth Gavriel Center	66-35 108 <sup>th</sup> Street, entrance on 67 <sup>th</sup> Ave	(718)-268-7558	
Young Israel Queens Valley	141-55 77 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Kew Gardens Hills	(718)-263-3921	7am-9pm Sun-Thurs
Congregation of Georgian Jews	63-04 Yellowstone Blvd., Forest Hills	(718) 897-9370	
Mikvah of Nassau County	775 Hempstead Ave., West Hempstead	(516) 489-9358	
Mikvah of Queens	75-48 Grand Central Pkwy, Forest Hills	(718) 261-6380	
Beth Israel of TAMA (Spinka)	99-47 62nd Rd., Rego Park	(718) 997-0311	
Ohr Baruchai (R Teitelbaum)	9014 63rd Dr. & Alderton St., Rego Park	(718)275-5452	

The following products have been verified to be Kosher for Pesach 2026 when bearing the appropriate kosher logo:



# Kosher for Pesach Liquor List- 2026

## Brandy

**Benjamin** Premium Brandy • OU-P  
**Boukha Bokobsa** Fig Alcohol • OU-P  
**Carmel Brandy** Carmel 100 Brandy • OU-P  
**Carmel Brandy** Carmel 777 Brandy • OU-P  
**Herzog French** Boukha Fig Brandy • OU-P  
**Jonathan Tishbi** Special Reserve Brandy • OU-P  
**Kvint** Divin Kosher Brandy (Mevushal) • OU-P  
**Kvint** Kosher Brandy (Mevushal) • OU-P  
**Sabra Liqueurs** Grand Sabra Orange Brandy • OU-P  
**Shekar** Kosher Brandy (Mevushal) • OU-P  
**Spirit of Solomon** Brandy • OU-P  
**Spirit of Solomon** Plum Brandy • OU-P  
**The Cave** The Cave Brandy VSOP • OU-P

## Cognac

**Dupuy** Cognac • OU-P  
**Dupuy** Cognac VSOP • OU-P  
**Dupuy Extra** Cognac • OU-P  
**Five Stones** Cognac • OU-P  
**Five Stones Vineyard** Cognac Imperial • OU-P  
**Herzog French** Cognac Louis Royer VS • OU-P  
**Herzog French** Cognac Louis Royer VSOP • OU-P  
**Herzog French** Cognac Louis Royer XO • OU-P  
**Lisker** Cognac • OU-P  
**Lisker X.O** Cognac • OU-P  
**Luxus Tentation** Cognac • OU-P

## Gin

**Dalton Winery** Gin • OU-P  
**Dead Drop** Gin • OU-P  
**Matar Winery** Gin Pink Lady • OK-P  
**Spirits** Gin • OU-P

## Liquor

**Binyamina Liqueur** assorted varieties • OU-P  
**Boukha Bokobsa Fig Alcohol** – assorted varieties • OU-P  
**Gold Shot** Brandwien • OU-P  
**Gold Shot** Slivovitz Plum Brandy • OU-P  
**Gush Etzion Winery** Sour Cherry Liqueur (2006) • OU-P  
**Jelinek** Silver Slivovitz • OU-P  
**Jelinek** Williams Pear Brandy • OU-P  
**Matar Winery** Arak • OK-P  
**Matar Winery** Brandy Apple • OK-P  
**Morad Wines Liqueur** – assorted varieties • OK-P  
**Morad Wines** Lychee Wine • OK-P  
**Morad Wines** Wild Berries Wine • OK-P  
**Psgot** Cherry Liqueur (Mevushal) • OU-P  
**Righteous Road** The Fifth Cup • OU-P  
**Righteous Road** The Fifth Cup Barrel Reserve • OU-P  
**Sabra Liqueurs** Sabra Coffee • OU-P  
**Sabra Liqueurs** Sabra Orange Chocolate • OU-P  
**Spirit of Solomon** Assorted Varieties • OU-P

**Vinprom-Troyan** Apple Brandy • Star-K-P  
**Vinprom-Troyan** Apricot Brandy • Star-K-P  
**Vinprom-Troyan** Plum Brandy (Slivovitz) • Star-K-P  
**Yekev Hagalil** Alouf Arak • OU-P  
**Yekev Hagalil** Elite Arak • OU-P  
**Yikvei Zion** New Arak 40% • OU-P  
**Yikvei Zion** Slivovitz • OU-P  
**Zachlawi Arak** – assorted varieties • OU-P

## Rum

**Dead Drop** Dark Rum • OU-P  
**Dead Drop** Rum • OU-P  
**Single Cask Nation** American Rum • OU-P

## Tequila

**Mi Amor** Tequila Anejo • OU-P  
**Mi Amor** Tequila Blanco • OU-P  
**Mi Amor** Tequila Reposado • OU-P  
**Patron** Gran Patron Platinum 100% Agave Silver Tequila  
KA Alef Alef-P  
**Patron** Gran Patron Smoky Silver Tequila • KA Alef Alef-P  
**Patron** Silver 100% Agave Tequila • KA Alef Alef-P  
**Patron** Roca Patron Silver Tequila • KA Alef Alef-P  
**Zarza** Tequila Anejo Passover • OU-P

## Vodka

**Zarza** Tequila Extra Anejo Passover • OU-P  
**Bozza** Tequila Reposado Passover • OU-P  
**Dead Drop** Vodka • OU-P  
**Kedem** Vodka • OU-P  
**Lvov** Vodka • OU-P  
**Metropolitan Martini Co.** Vodka Martini • OU-P  
**Peacock** Vodka • OU-P  
**Sauvage** Upstate Vodka • OK-P  
**Shikor Hot Shot** – Vodka with Chili Pepper • OU-P  
**Shikor** Vodka infused with Saffron • OU-P  
**Stoli** Gluten Free • OU-P  
**Vincenzi** Vodka • OU-P  
**Yikvei Zion** Lemon Vodka 40% • OU-P  
**Yikvei Zion** Vodka 40% • OU-P  
**Zachlawi** Blue Caracao Vodka • OU-P  
**Zachlawi** Cinnamon Vodka • OU-P  
**Zachlawi** Coffee Vodka • OU-P  
**Zachlawi** Cold Brew Coffee Vodka Passover • OU-P  
**Zachlawi** Premium Vodka • OU-P

# Post- Pesach Information 2026

*Which stores can I buy Chametz from right after Pesach?*

**The following places in the NY area, not under supervision, have been verified to either have sold Chametz or not be under Jewish ownership:**

**Source: JSOR Passover Guide 2025**

- |                       |   |                 |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| • Aldi                | • Lidl                                    | • Stop and Shop |
| • BJ's Wholesale Club | • Petco                                   | • Target        |
| • Costco              | • PetSmart                                | • Trader Joe's  |
| • CVS                 | • Rite-Aid                                | • Walgreens     |
| • Dollar Tree         | • Sam's Club                              | • Walmart       |
| • Duane Reade         | • 7-11                                    | • Wegman's      |
| • Fine Fare           | • Shoprite on Avenue I, Brooklyn          | • Whole Foods   |
| • Foodtown            | (NOTE: each Shoprite is separately owned; |                 |
| • K-Mart              | this is specific to this Shoprite)        |                 |

All VHQ-certified stores are fine to shop in for Chametz after Pesach such as:

- Aron's Kissena Farms
- Wasserman's
- Seasons
- A to Z
- All other VHQ-certified stores

When purchasing Chametz after Pesach 2025 from other establishments not known to be sold/absolved:

- From Large Stores: Wait until after April 26, 2026
- From Small Stores: Wait until after May 10, 2026
- From Liquor Stores: Wait until after May 24, 2026

