

PASSOVER PREPARATION

Some guidelines for Passover preparation:

Since the Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (leaven) during Pesach, we arrange for the sale of the *chametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat chametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership (see form on page 9.) At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now permitted *chametz*. If ownership of the *chametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *chametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well.

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *chametz* during *Pesach*, and since many common foods contain some admixture of *chametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for *Pesach*. This is a general guideline.

FOOD

Prohibited foods include:

leavened bread, cakes biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffee with cereal derivatives in them, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. While most Ashkenazic authorities include corn, millet, legumes, beans, peas in the list of prohibited foods, they are called *kitniyot*, and are not *chametz*. For a discussion regarding kitniyot, please see <http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesach/pesach-guide-5777.pdf> , page 7

The following foods require no kosher lePesach label if purchased prior to Pesach:

Unopened packages or containers of natural coffee (without cereal additives), sugar, pure tea, salt, pepper, natural spices, fruit juices with no additives (frozen, canned or bottled), frozen (uncooked) vegetables (for legumes see above), milk, butter, cottage cheese, cream cheese, ripened cheeses, such as cheddar (hard), muenster (semi-soft) and camembert (soft), tuna in water (no oil added), frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives), baking soda.

The following foods require no kosher lePesach label if purchased before or during Pesach:

Fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes see above), eggs, fresh fish and fresh meat.

The following foods require a kosher lePesach label if purchased before or during Pesach:

All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal and any products containing matzah), wine, vinegar, liquor, oils, dried fruits, candy, chocolate flavored milk, ice cream, yogurt and soda.

The following foods require a kosher lePesach label if purchased during Pesach:

Processed foods (canned, frozen or bottled): milk, butter, juices, vegetables, fruit, milk products, spices, coffee, tea and fish (as well as all foods listed immediately above).

DETERGENTS

If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a *kosher lePesach* label.

MEDICINE

Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted. While liquids may contain chametz they are permissible if required to maintain health.

UTENSILS

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil. This means that utensils used in stove-top cooking are *kashered* by boiling, those used in broiling are *kashered* by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are *kashered* by rinsing.

OVENS AND RANGES

Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self cleaning

(continued on page 9)

PASSOVER PREPARATION

ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be *kashered* in the same manner as regular ovens. A microwave oven, which does not cook food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and then a cup of water (lemon juice may be added) should be placed in it. Then the oven should be turned on until most of the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be *kashered* for *Pesach*.

GLASSWARE

May be thoroughly scrubbed before *Pesach* or put through a dishwasher.

DISHWASHER

After not using the machine for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

If the parts that come into contact with *chametz* are removable, they can be *kashered* in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be *kashered*. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned).

KITCHEN SINK

A metal sink can be *kashered* by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used.

Mekhirat Chametz (Selling Chametz)

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during *Pesach*. Ideally we burn or remove all *chametz* from our premises.

Because this might cause prohibitive financial loss, we arrange for the sale of the *chametz* to a non-Jew and for its repurchase after *Pesach*. This is usually done by appointing a rabbi as power of attorney for selling your *chametz*, so that the transaction is done correctly. If you would like to appoint me as your seller, please complete the following document and return it to me by **March 29th**.

Please note that this is a real sale and the buyer will own your *chametz*. There is a true story of a synagogue custodian who had purchased the *chametz* of synagogue members and the synagogue, who was throwing a party at his house and ran out of liquor. He turned up at the shul and took the liquor to replenish his party. Although perfectly legal, this did not lead to good relations between the custodian and the synagogue! Also note that this does not happen very often and your *hametz* will most likely be safe. If the buyer is willing, **your *chametz* will revert to your possession after 8:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 7th.**

For Selling Chametz 5778 (Passover 2018)

I, the undersigned give the power of attorney to Rabbi Susan Elkodsi for the purpose of disposing to a buyer of Rabbi Elkodsi's choice, of all *chametz* in my possession, which includes all foods and things fully or partially composed of leavening, or of the derivatives of leavening and all other foods and things associated by Judaism with *chametz* in my possession, the sale of which is to be effective by **March 30 at 10 a.m.**

Name. _____

Address. _____

Signature. _____ Date. _____

You may email this form to susanelkodsi@gmail.com or mjctemple@gmail.com, or mail to:
Malverne Jewish Center, 1 Norwood Avenue Malverne, NY 11565
Questions? Call Rabbi Elkodsi at 203-332-4428.