Section 2 2025 Pesach Prep



What to Know Before & After

All Kashering and counter covering should be completed before Shabbos begins on Friday, April 11th.

We do not make an Eruv Tavshillin this year. Matzoh may NOT be eaten on Shabbos Erev Pesach!

Shmura Matzoh must be used for both sedarim. For those planning on selling their
Chametz through
Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person BEFORE Wednesday evening, April 9th.

If you have an ongoing order that contains chametz, make sure to cancel or suspend it prior to Pesach.

Don't forget to give
Ma'os Chittim
through Jewish
Family Service.

Get ready to start counting Sefira!

Chametz sold through
Rabbi Wender can
Rabbi Wender can
once again be used on
sunday night
April 20th
after 9:00 P.M.

Section ii-Pesach Prep & Wrap-Up

- Shopping; selling; Searching (15)

— Tevilas Kailim (15)

- Leaving; Chametz Orders (16)

— Ma'os Chiттім (16 & 21)

— Ta'anis Bechorim (16)

— Erev Pesach: Special Notes (17-18)

<u>— Матгон (18)</u>

— Yom Tov Cooking (18)

— Eruv Tavshillin (not this year!) (18)

- Erev Pesach from the Star-K (19-20)

— Buying After Pesach (21)

- Sefiras HaOMER (21)

- Sale of Chametz form (22)

— Paid advertisement (23)

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Section ii: Pesah Prep & Wrap-Up



When buying items for *Pesach*, please make sure the item is marked "Kosher for Passover" or "בשר לפסח". Some stores may erroneously display *non-Pesach* food as *Kosher* for the holiday.

🥜 Mechiras Chametz 🧬

Selling Chametz

In the past, before refrigeration and preservatives, it was natural to eliminate all *chametz* from one's home before Pesach. Today, with those food saving amenities, many people choose to retain their *chametz* for after Pesach. Accordingly, a legal mechanism has become popular that allows you to sell your *chametz* to a non-Jewish person for the duration of the holiday.

Rabbi Wender will be available for *Mechiras Chametz* most nights before *Mincha* and after *Maariv* during the two weeks before *Pesach* (except for Friday & Saturday nights). Please let the Rabbi know where your *chametz* will be stored.

For those planning on selling their *Chametz* through Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person BEFORE Wednesday evening, April 9th. For your convenience, we've included a blank "Sale of *Chametz* Form" in this Planner that you can fill out in advance and bring with you when you arrange with the Rabbi to sell your *Chametz*.

All chametz which is sold must be stored away in cabinets or closets by the time of the sale, and tape should be applied there to remind us not to open them. The chametz should not be locked up. Food that is sold by Rabbi Wender must be in their designated locations by 12:20 PM on Friday, April 11th.

Chametz sold through Rabbi Wender can once again be used on Sunday night April 20th, after 9:00 PM.

1 Bedikas chametz 1

On Thursday night April 10th after 8:30 PM, *Bedikas chametz* is performed. After reciting the *bracha*, a candle or flashlight should be used to check the entire house. This is not a symbolic search or only a game to find the pieces of bread which were scattered around the house. All areas which may have contained *chametz* should be searched. After the *bedika*, one should make a verbal nullification of *chametz* in a language that one understands.



' Tevilas Kailim 🖔

Kosher Cook and similar companies:

Please be aware that utensils sold from companies [such as "Kosher Cook" etc.] that state on the packaging "Ein Tzurich Tevila" ("does not need to be toveld") is only relevant if purchased in a Jewish owned store. All utensils that are purchased in non-Jewish owned stores require Tevilah.

Shopping Alert for 2025

Hashgachah agencies across the country are reporting a concerning trend: non-KFP items are mistakenly packaged alongside KFP products, often bearing striking resemblances to each other. Additionally, there's been a surge in new kitniyos products this year.

It's crucial for consumers to exercise caution and thoroughly inspect everything they purchase for Pesach.

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Going Away for Pesach 🖤

If you are going away before Thursday night April 10th and nobody will be staying in your house over Pesach:

A Pick one small room in your house for your bedikah.

A Make a *bedikah* the night before you leave, without a bracha.

Note on your chametz form that you are going away

If others will be staying in your house:

You must clean all of the rooms that will be used.

Any room you did not clean must be closed off (with tape or closed doors).



If you are going away on Thursday night April 10th OR during the day on Friday. April 11th:

A Make a bedikah with a bracha on Thursday night before you leave.

A Burn your *chametz* at the proper time by taking it with you to burn or giving it to somebody to burn for you.



If you have an ongoing order that contains *chametz*, make sure to cancel or suspend it prior to Pesach.

One may not order chametz before Pesach or on Chol Hamoed to be delivered after Pesach.

II Ma'os Chittim II

It is a custom to give tzidaka to the poor before Pesach to help prepare for the holiday. This *mitzvah* is referred to as Ma'os Chittim. Jewish Family Service collects money for their Passover Assistance Campaign to help local families make Pesach. Please see page 21 for more details.



Ta'anis Bechorim



Ta'anis Bechorim takes place this year on Thursday, April 10th. All male firstborn or fathers male firstborn must fast or attend a siyum. The fast will begin at 5:49 AM. There will be Siyumim following the 6:10 Minyan and the 7:05 Minyan at Young Israel.









Hatzalah of Houston wishes each of you a Safe, Kosher and Freilichen Pesach!

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Erev Pesach Special Note for this year

This year *Pesach* falls out on a Saturday night, so there are many special halachos that one needs to know.

As far as food preparation is concerned, there are several possible options. Below are the easiest and most practical ways to deal with these unusual circumstances.

The house should be cleaned for *Pesach* before *Shabbos*. All *kasherina* for *Pesach* must be completed before *Shabbos* begins. This includes the sink, oven and stove. It is recommended that all food be cooked in Please see pages 19.20 for an

Kosher for Pesach pots and served on Pesach dishes. The only *chametz* left in the house should be the bread which must be eaten on Friday night and Shabbos morning. One suggestion would be to use challah rolls so that no crumbs are made by cutting challah. Each person should have one roll per meal. Another suggestion would be to eat the entire meal outside (patio), weather permitting.

EXCELLENT ARTICLE FROM THE STAR-K,

3 - On Friday morning, April 11th, we burn the *chametz* as usual before 12:20 PM. No Bitul is said at this time. All Chametz that you won't be eating or selling should be eliminated or burnt by then. Chametz that you will still be using on Friday or until

11:14 AM on Shabbos morning, obviously need not be destroyed.

4 - Chametz sales done through Rabbi Wender will be binding by 12:20 PM on Friday, April 11th. All *Chametz* that you are

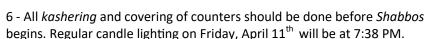
selling should be in the designated spot by that time. (One may still buy Chametz for immediate use or Shabbos

consumption.)

5 - Preparations for the seder These include: roasting of the egg and bone, grating the horseradish (store it in an airtight container to retain sharpness), checking the

mixing the saltwater, and making charoses.

should be done before Shabbos. romaine lettuce for bugs,



- 7 After Kiddush, we wash and eat the challah rolls. They should be eaten over disposable paper to catch any crumbs. After eating all of the challah, flush the paper down the toilet together with any stray crumbs. Proceed with your Pesachdik meal and bentch a regular Birkat Hamazon. Another suggestion would be to eat the entire meal outside (patio), weather permitting.
- 8 On Shabbos morning we will have minyanim at YIH 6:40 AM & 8:00 AM. One should daven and return home quickly. After kiddush we again eat the rolls in the same way (or have the entire meal outside). The bread must be finished and disposed of by 11:14 AM on Shabbos morning, March 27th. Chametz may no longer be eaten at that point.
- Flush away the paper and any remaining bread.
- One should rinse their mouths at this time.

Special note for this year continued on next page...





However, baked goods made with matzah meal may be eaten on Friday night but not during the day on Shabbos.



Step-by-Step Plan for Managing Erev Pesach This Year – Including Houston Zmanim

- 1 Ta'anis Bechorim is moved up to Thursday, April 10th. Shachris will be at 6:10 & 7:05 AM, with a Siyum following both Minyanim.
- 2 Bedikas Chametz is performed on Thursday night, April 10th after 8:30 PM. The regular Bitul is said at this time.





Chamet:

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.. Special note for this year continued:

- In addition, one should brush their teeth with a **dry** chametz toothbrush or floss with pre-cut floss. (Note: if flossing, do not floss too hard, so as to avoid causing one's qums to bleed.)

- At that time say the 2nd bitul found in the Hagada (the one we usually say after burning the chametz).

- We then eat the rest of our meal and bentch.

9 - In the afternoon, we eat *seuda shelishis*. This should include some fish (*since we are not washing, fish is the most chashuv thing to "upgrade" the meal*). Obviously no bread or *Matzah* may be eaten. Potato Starch without *Matzah Meal* may be used as an ingredient.

10 - The seder begins anytime after 8:32 PM. No preparations, including setting the table or warming food, should be done before that time. If one has not davened Maariv, they should say Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Le'Kodesh before starting to prepare. (Please also note below "Cooking on Yom Tov".) Havdalla is made together with Kiddush during the Seder, as it appears in the Hagadah.



It is forbidden to prepare on one day of Yom Tov for the next day of Yom Tov. Therefore, no food preparations for the meal on Motzai Shabbos April 12th may take place for the Saturday night Yom Tov meal (first Seder) until after Shabbos ends, after 8:32pm /

9:00pm (Rabbeinu Tam). If one has not davened Maariv, they should say *Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Le'Kodesh* before starting to prepare. Additionally, no

food preparations should be started on Sunday night, April 13th for that night (second Seder) until after lighting candles at 8:33pm / 9:01pm (*Rabbeinu Tam*).

The following week no preparations for the meal on Saturday night April 19th may begin for the Saturday night Yom Tov meal until after Shabbos ends, at 8:36pm / 9:01pm (*Rabbeinu Tam*).

As was the case the week before, if one has not davened Maariv, they should say *Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Le'Kodesh* before starting to prepare.

Rachel (1) Yaghobian

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We do not make an Eruv Tavshillin this year.







The following article was copied from the Star-K at this link:

https://www.star-k.org/articles/wp-content/uploads/erev-pesach-on-shabbos.pdf

A GUIDE TO EREV PESACH THAT OCCURS ON SHABBOS

Rabbi Dovid Heber, STAR-K Kashrus Administrator

Many of us are quite familiar with the regular Erev Pesach routine: The bechorim go to a siyum, the chometz is burned, and we prepare for the Seder. However, every so often, Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos and we must modify our routine. Let us review the halachos of Shabbos Erev Pesach. (After this year, it will not occur for another twenty years. The next occurrences will be in 2045, 2048, 2052, and then not again until 2072.)

Thursday - Taanis Bechorim/Bedikas Chometz

On a regular Erev Pesach the first-born males (bechorim) are obligated to fast. This year the fast is pushed back to Thursday. Those bechorim who do not wish to fast should attend a siyum. Thursday night after tzeis hakochavim (when it gets dark), one should immediately perform bedikas chometz. A bracha and Kol Chamira (same as usual) are recited.

Friday - Erev Shabbos

Chometz which is necessary for Friday night and Shabbos morning meals should be placed in a disposable container away from all Pesach food. Although chometz may be purchased and eaten all day Friday, the custom is to sell and burn the chometz before the sof zman biur chometz (i.e., end of the 5th balachic hour of the day) corresponding to when that time occurs on the actual day of Erev Pesach.² Burning it later could lead to confusion in subsequent years. Kol Chamira is not recited at the time of burning. All keilim should l'chatchila be kashered by this time. Bedi'eved one could kasher keilim until candle lighting on Friday.

The following preparations for the Seder should be made on Erev Shabbos: Roast the egg and z'roa, check and clean lettuce leaves, chop the nuts for the charoses, and grate the horseradish. Food cooked for Shabbos and Yom Tov should be kosher l'Pesach and cooked in Pesach pots.

After chatzos (midday) on a regular Erev Pesach, one may not perform various melachos (e.g., shaving, doing laundry).³ These halachos do not apply this year since Erev Shabbos is not actually Erev Pesach.

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Friday Evening and Shabbos Day

Except for *Hamotzi*, all meals should be eaten on *Pesachdig* utensils. These utensils should not be brought to the table until after all crumbs have been cleared away. Alternatively, one may use disposable utensils.

The procedure for Hamotzi for all Shabbos meals is as follows:

- Place the lechem mishneh on tissues or paper napkins on the table. No Kosher l'Pesach utensils should be on the table with the rolls.
- Eat the rolls carefully over tissues/napkins, so that any remaining crumbs can be wrapped in the tissues and flushed or shaken out of the napkins and flushed.
- It is advisable to use small fresh rolls for lechem mishneh (fresh rolls make fewer crumbs).
- Clear the table of all chometz.
- Discard all disposable items (e.g., plastic tablecloth, plates) used with chometz into a trash can.
- Serve the rest of the Kosher l'Pesach meal on Pesachdig or disposable dishes.
- For children who may leave crumbs, egg matzah may be substituted.
 Because the bracha on egg matzah is a matter of dispute, adults should use rolls for lechem mishneh.
- After making Hamotzi and eating more than a kebei'a (i.e., more than two kezeisim) of the roll, adults may eat egg matzah until the sof zman achilas chometz.
- On Shabbos Erev Pesach, regular matzah may not be eaten by anyone except children under six.

If one is concerned with eating any bread indoors, one may eat outdoors on the porch or in the backyard (if it is permissible to carry — i.e., within a reshus hayachid). Recite Hamotzi, eat the rolls, then sweep the crumbs off the table and off the porch. One may not sweep the crumbs into the wind or out of an eruv. Alternatively, eat over tissues or napkins and flush as above. One may finish the meal inside. Birchas Hamazon should l'chatchila be recited where the bread was eaten.

Shabbos Morning Meal

Shacharis on Shabbos morning should be scheduled earlier than usual because one must recite *Hamotzi* on *lechem mishneh* and finish all bread before the sof *zman achilas chometz* (i.e., end of the 4th *halachic* hour of the day).

After disposing of all chometz, one must recite the same Kol Chamira that is usually said when burning the chometz. This must be done before the sof zman biur chometz (end of the 5th halachic hour). It is recited even if it was already recited by mistake on Friday at the time of biur chometz.

One may continue his Kosher l'Pesach meal and recite Birchas Hamazon after these times.

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This article is continued on the next page. \rightarrow

¹ This occurs on average once every nine years, as frequently as every three years (e.g., 2005 and 2008), and as infrequently as every 20 years.

² Bedieved, it can be burned or sold all day Friday until Shabbos begins.

³ See "The Busiest Day of the Year: The Laws of Erev Pesach" available at star-k.org.

Star-K article, continued from the previous page.

Shabbos Afternoon Meal

During Seuda Shlishis on an ordinary Shabbos, one must have lechem mishneh and l'chatchila eat more than a kebei'a (i.e., more than two kezeisim) of bread after the time of Mincha Gedola (1/2 halachic hour after chatzos/midday). On this Shabbos, one may not eat bread or matzah at this time. What is the solution?

One should eat "other foods" during the afternoon meal, such as fish, fruits or Shehakol cakes (cakes made only from potato starch) any time between Mincha Gedola and sunset. However, if one eats these foods after the beginning of the tenth hour, one should be especially careful not eat too much thereby diminishing his appetite for the Seder.

For those who follow the custom of eating *gebrokts* on Pesach, cooked products containing matzah meal (e.g., *kneidlach*) may be eaten if they are consumed *before* the 10th hour of the day. Baked matzah meal products, including cake, may not be eaten anytime during the day.⁴

Splitting the Morning Meal

If time permits, it is preferable to "split the morning meal" by doing the following:

- Recite Hamotzi and eat more than a kebei'a from the rolls.
- Recite Birchas Hamazon and take a walk outside.
- Then, wash for Seuda Shlishis⁵ and recite Hamotzi.
- Be careful to finish the bread and dispose of the crumbs by the times indicated above.

If one "splits" the morning meal in this way, one must still eat something after *Mincha Gedola* as described above to fulfill the mitzvah of *Seuda Shlishis* in the prescribed time according to most opinions.

Motzei Shabbos and the Seder

All preparation for Yom Tov and the seder may not begin until Shabbos is over (tzeis hakochavim). As previously indicated, some preparations should be done before Shabbos. One may also wish to set the Seder table before Shabbos and eat in the kitchen on Shabbos to allow the Seder to begin as early as possible after Shabbos.

Kiddush and Havdalah (yaknahaz)⁶ are recited together at the Seder as printed in the Haggadah. One should recite Borei Me'orei Ha'aish using the Yom Tov candles, putting them together side by side while upright. They should not be tilted to touch each other. Alternatively, one may recite the bracha using a non-frosted

4 Whether or not one eats gebrokts, baked (and certainly cooked) matzah meal products may be eaten on Friday night.

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incandescent light bulb which was turned on before Shabbos (or was turned on by a timer that was set before Shabbos).

Besides yaknahaz, there is one additional change to the Haggadah: In the bracha of Asher G'alanu prior to drinking the second cup of wine, we reverse the order and say min hapesachim u'min hazevachim (instead of the opposite order). This is due to the change in the order of korbanos when Pesach occurs on Motzei Shabbos.

Final Thoughts

When Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos, it affords a rare opportunity to rest on Erev Pesach.

When I was a student in yeshiva, I once commented to Mr. Hyman Flaks z"l, the Executive Director of the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis, that when Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos, preparations are so difficult. He answered, "This type of year is my favorite year. My work in the field of kashrus is so hectic before Pesach. With a Shabbos to rest, I can come to the Seder feeling like a mentch!"

Today, I understand exactly what he meant. As we all prepare for Pesach, amidst the hectic frenzy, we can look forward to the rare⁸ Erev Pesach which affords us an extra special *Yom Menucha*.

Purim and Lag Ba'omer are on Friday

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The previous article was copied from the Star-K at this link:

https://www.star-k.org/articles/wp-content/uploads/erev-pesach-on-shabbos.pdf

See pages 17-18 for "Special Note for This Year", including Houston Zmanim.

⁵ This fulfills the obligation according to additional opinions.

⁶ Yaknahaz is a well-known acronym for Kiddush and Havdala on Motzei Shabbos. It stands for Yayin, Kiddush, Ner, Havdala and Zman (i.e., Shehecheyanu).

⁷ On that Shabbos, one should be careful not to say something like, "I am taking a nap this afternoon to be rested for the Seder."

⁸ All the following events are unique to the rare year when Erev Pesach is Shabbos:

<sup>Fast of B"HB falls on Pesach Sheini
We recite the Slichos before Rosh Hashana for eight days, the most days possible</sup>

During the following Tishrei we read the Torah for 11 days in a row – from Monday, Erev Sukkos, through Thursday, Isru Chag, more than is done at any other time







Diane Puschett

Join us in providing Passover Assistance to our community.

Alexander Jewish Family Service helps over 400 families each year with Passover Assistance.



The Board and Staff of Alexander JFS wish you and your family a wonderful Passover!

Carolyn Mintz Kaplan, President, Alexander JFS
Carl E. Josehart, CEO, Alexander JFS

Rabbi Asher Block and Diane Puschett Co-Chairs, Passover Assistance Program

Alexander JFS is a partner agency of Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and a United Way partner

Buying Chametz After Pesach

We are fortunate because at this time in Houston there are no stores that present a problem for purchasing chametz right after *Pesach*. Additionally, bakeries & restaurants that are under HKA supervision, are also acceptable right after Pesach.

Sefiras HaOmer S

There is a *Mitzvah* to count the *Omer* for seven weeks, beginning on the second night of *Pesach*. The *Mitzvah* is to count both weeks and days. One makes a *Bracha* each time they count. If a person forgot to count at night, they can count during the day the next day without a *Bracha*, and continue making the *Bracha* the following night. If a person omitted an entire day (night and day), they continue counting but without a *Bracha*.

There are many versions of this year's *Sefiras HaOmer* counting chart available. You may access some of them on our **Pesach Planner website** at http://pesachplanner.org/. Then scroll down to choose the Sefiras HaOmer link.



Rabbi Yehoshua Wender | Mrs. Rivkey Nimchinsky

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Sale of Chametz Form

Rabbi Wender will be available for Mechiras Chametz most nights before Mincha and after 9:00 PM Maariv, from April 2nd to April 9th (except for Friday & Saturday nights).

For those planning on selling their Chametz through Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person before Wednesday evening, April 9th.

For your convenience, here is a blank "Sale of chametz Form" that you can fill out in advance and bring with you when you



Note to Seller: Please remember to tape closed or otherwise delineate areas that contain your chametz

DELEGATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, fully empower as my agent (shaliach) and permit Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and/or the "Beis Din of Houston" to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell, trade, or give away all CHAMETZ possessed by me (knowingly or unknowingly) as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. chametz, doubt of chametz, and all kinds of chametz mixtures), as well as chametz that tends to harden and to adhere to a surface of pans, pots and cooking and usable utensils, and to lease all places wherein the chametz owned by me may be found, especially (but not exclusively) in the premises indicated below, before the time when chametz becomes forbidden by halacha. I do, however, retain the right to walk through those leased areas.

Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and/or the Beis Din of Houston has the full right to dispose of my chametz in any way they see fit and to lease the areas where the chametz is located by transactions, (whether I own that area or rent it) as they deem fit and proper and for such time which they believe necessary. This right also extends to chametz that I might acquire between now (the time I sign this document) and the time of sale of chametz. I hereby give the said Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and the Beis Din full power and authority to appoint a substitute in their stead with full power to sell and lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical regulations and laws, and also in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States.

(Please Print)
before Thursday night, April 10 th
exclusion of other locations):



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Page 23