

GUIDE TO EREV PESACH ON SHABBOS 5781-2021

This year Erev Pesach falls on Shabbos. Moreover, British Summer Time will start on Sunday 28th March, which is the first day of Pesach. The clocks will be moved forward one hour at 1.00am and will become 2.00am. Our Shul will ignore the changeover, and keep to GMT until after the second day Yom Tov. Be aware, however, that some other shuls will give their times in BST and all radio controlled devices will automatically change over on Sunday morning and will THEN be an hour ahead of our published times.

In any case, there is the issue of Erev Pesach on Shabbos. We have on the one hand to take care to remove all Chometz but on the other, to avoid the slightest possibility of Chillul Shabbos. In addition, all the Seder preparations need to be completed before Yom Tov but they cannot be done, under any circumstances, on Shabbos. We are required to eat Lechem Mishneh for the evening and the morning meals but cannot use Matzoh for the morning meal (and many have the custom not to on Friday night either) because it is Erev Pesach. Thus one is faced with removing the last traces of Chometz on Shabbos itself, [unless one were able to follow Method 3 mentioned in §12 below].

This explanatory sheet is intended to guide the reader through the various Halachic and logistical aforementioned issues.

NOTE. Children too young to understand the Seder (certainly those under the age of 4) may be given real Matzoh to eat throughout the day of Erev Pesach. Even children somewhat older, we have not yet reached the age of Chinuch (probably those who are under the age of 6), need not be given bread at all this Shabbos.

THURSDAY 12TH NISSAN - 25TH MARCH

1. The *Taanis Bechoros* (the fast for the first-borns) is held on Thursday. As usual a Siyum will take place after Shacharis which will be at 6.15am or at 7.15am. Due to COVID considerations, *Bechoros* should bring their own wrapped Chometz to eat at the siyum.
2. Bedikas Chometz takes place on Thursday evening immediately after nightfall at 7.04pm with the usual B'rochoh and Kol Chamiroh. Anyone going out of town for Pesach before this time does Bedikoh on the night before going away without the B'rochoh, but with Kol Chamiroh.
3. All the Chometz required for the whole of Friday (including what will be burnt) and Shabbos morning, should be put aside in a special place. Particular care should be taken to prevent children from carrying Chometz around the house after Bedikas Chometz.

FRIDAY 13TH NISSAN – 26TH MARCH

4. The selling of Chometz will have taken place on Friday morning by 11.00am and care should be taken that all Chometz to be sold is stored away in its allocated place for Pesach by 10.45am
5. All Chometz other than that which is to be sold or required for eating until Shabbos morning should be burnt on **FRIDAY** by 11.00am. The second Kol Chamiroh is not said at this point, but on Shabbos morning instead.
6. Chometz dishes which are not required on Friday and Shabbos morning should be removed as usual and placed in a room or cupboard, locked or sealed for the whole of Pesach.
7. As no Chometz may be left over after the Shabbos morning meal, it is advisable to use small Challos, rolls or **Hamozi** pitta bread for Lechem Mishneh.
8. The kitchen and the house must be ready for Pesach before Shabbos as if Pesach were to start on Friday night. All kashering of vessels must be completed before Shabbos.
9. All preparations for the Seder which cannot be made on Yom Tov must be completed before Shabbos as follows:-
 - a. Horseradish ("Chraime") should be grated and tightly enclosed in a plastic bag or air-tight container in the refrigerator.

b. Lettuce should be washed and checked but must not be kept in liquid over Shabbos. It should be kept in a container or plastic bag in the refrigerator.

c. The Charoses, Zeroah and egg should be prepared before Shabbos.

10. If you have an Eruv Chatzeros of Chometz, it must be renewed with Pesachdik Matzos. It is a good idea to use these the whole year round.

11. Even if the Friday evening and Shabbos morning meals contain Chometz, it is essential that no Chometz be cooked because of the difficulty of cleaning the pots and crockery and cutlery.

12. For the Friday evening meal, one makes Kiddush and Hamotzi in the same place. There are then three possible methods for the meal itself, the third of which is, in practice, only theoretical (as will be explained)

METHOD 1. Eat the Chometz rolls or pitta bread as part of a Chometzdik meal, using Chometzdik or disposable crockery with food cooked Pesachdik. Any hot food should not be brought to the table in the pot in which it was cooked, but be transferred to an intermediary container. This container should be disposable. No Chometzdik utensil should be brought into the kitchen, nor should any Pesachdik one be placed on the chometz table.

METHOD 2. Following Kiddush eat a K'baitzoh (which is an amount that is the size the of a regular sized egg) of Lechem Mishneh, in a secluded place. Brush everything down thoroughly. Then proceed to eat the meal, which is entirely Pesachdik, at a different table. Then go back to the chomet corner, have a little more bread, and Bentsch there.

METHOD 3. Use Matzoh Ashiroh, which is commonly known as egg Matzos, instead of Chometz rolls. This will enable one to dispose of all chometz before Shabbos. Some people, especially those who have little children or grandchildren in the house, might find this method preferable. However the use of egg matzoh is only an option if they are produced **with an particularly reliable Hechsher**. This is because egg matzos, in their production, could become chometz even more easily than ordinary matzoh. In practice however, at this point, none of the shops have reported that they are stocking egg Matzos. Consequently, this does not seem to be a real option.

In theory, egg matzos could be brought to the Pesachdik table and eaten until 9.25am. One would have to ensure that no crumbs were eaten after this time, and take particular care that none were allowed to adhere to butter or jam, etc. The reason for this is that in accordance with the opinion of the R'mo [O.C. 444:1], Matzoh Ashiroh may not be eaten after the time limit for eating Chometz has passed, except in cases of great need. A Sha'alloh should be asked to the Rav if you think that this may apply. Matzoh Ashiroh with a reliable hechsher, may however, be kept over Pesach, but should be put away.

SHABBOS 14TH NISSAN - 27TH MARCH

13. On Shabbos morning, after early Shacharis at 6.15am, make the usual Kiddush, have Lechem Mishneh with either Chometz or egg matzos, and finish the meal by 9.25am. Whereas any one of the three methods above *can* be employed, it is suggested that it would be best to eat just a small one-course breakfast in a secluded place. (see later in §19 about Seuda Shlishis options for this Shabbos)

False teeth and removable dental braces should then be rinsed under a cold tap. Any residue of Chometz trapped in fixed dental braces could be dislodged using a toothpick or a **dry** toothbrush or by eating a firm apple.

14. It is advisable not to eat Chometz in a carpeted room, as one cannot clean the carpet thoroughly on Shabbos. It might be helpful to spread a paper or plastic sheet underneath and around the eating area. After breakfast, all crumbs from the tablecloth, the floor and from this sheet should be collected into a dustpan, emptied into the W.C. and flushed away. The broom, brush and pan used should be checked for crumbs. All disposables and coverings should be brushed down, after which they can be discarded into the normal bin. If the bin is outside the house, remember that it is Shabbos. Pockets and clothes worn for the Chometzdik meals should also be examined, as should sleeves of woolly cardigans etc.

Note. Although eating of Chometz has to stop by 9.25am, you have until 10.45am. to dispose of any residue of Chometz. Remember to bentsch though!

15. Any Chometz left over, should be broken into small pieces and disposed of in the W.C. before 10.45am.

16. After any Chometzdik dishes or cutlery have been used, they should be inspected and any crumbs adhering should be removed or rinsed off in a non-Pesachtik sink. However they should not be washed up properly, because they will not be used again on Shabbos. They should then be locked away for the duration of Pesach.

17. **Remember** to say the second Kol Chamiroh before 10.45am once all the known Chometz has been removed, to renounce ownership of any Chometz which has been left in your possession inadvertently.

18. From 9.25am onwards until the Seder, no Chometz, *kitnios*, Matzoh or any cake or biscuits containing Matzoh meal may be eaten.

19. Seudah Shelishis: It is normally eaten on Shabbos afternoon and starts with Lechem Mishneh. On Erev Pesach in the afternoon, however, we can neither eat Chaloh nor Matzoh and so we cannot do this. There are only two options available to us, neither of which are entirely satisfactory.

a) Eat a non-bread meal after Chatzos (midday, 12.06pm). This can certainly be done easily and is, indeed, a requirement. Remember, though, to make all the appropriate Berochos, as you have not washed!

Note, that **boiled** matzoh balls (*kneidlach*) and deep fried schnitzel and fish are permitted, even though they contain matzoh meal.

b) Eat a second bread meal *before* 9.25am. A minimum of half an hour must be left between the two morning meals (to avoid berochos she'ainom tzrichso – unnecessary berochos). This is difficult to manage in the limited time available, and is not deemed mandatory, but merely a *chumroh*-stringency if time were to allow, and it does not absolve us from having a Seudoh in the afternoon as outlined in **(a)**.

20. During the last quarter of the day, after 3.17pm, one should refrain from eating any kneidlach or such large quantities of other food that would spoil ones appetite for the Matzoh at the Seder.

MOTZOEI SHABBOS - 1ST SEDER NIGHT

21. No Seder preparations of any kind are permitted on Shabbos itself. This includes arranging the table, taking out the "kittel" or any of the Seder accessories. After nightfall at 7.17pm preparations for the Seder, as well as any work allowed on Yom Tov, may commence but only after saying "Boruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Lekodesh"

21. If one forgot to grate the horseradish, it may be grated on Yom Tov with a small Shinuy (in a slightly unusual manner), e.g., by grating onto a serviette. The same applies to any grating required for making Charoses. If the roasting of the Zeroah (meat or chicken with bone) and egg has been forgotten, you can do it on Motzoi Shabbos, as long as they are eaten on the first **day** of Yom Tov. Then it will be necessary to repeat the procedure on the second night, before eating them on the second day.

Wishing you all a fulfilled, focused and calm Shabbos and Yom Tov.

Rav Cohn