

Bedikas Chametz

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- The night before Pesach, any places that will be lived in on Pesach have to be checked for chametz
- Cleaning is supposed to be done before bedikas chametz . Not while you do bedikas chametz
- Bedikas chametz should be done immediately after nightfall
- No eating a meal or learning or any other activities until after bedikas chametz is done
- Taking a snack is allowed
- Maariv can be davened before or after doing bedikas chametz
- The bracha should be said while holding a candle. After checking any part of the house with the candle switch to a flashlight
- There should be no talking until after the entire bedikas chametz is completed and Kol Chamira is said.
- Talking for bedikas chametz necessities is allowed
- If the bracha was forgotten then the bracha can be made until the bedika is completed
- If the Bracha was forgotten until after bedikas chametz was completed then a bracha can be made the next day before burning the chametz
- The minhag is for someone to put out ten pieces of bread to be searched for during the bedika
- Any places that food could have potentially been brought into needs to be checked
- If you forget to do bedikas chametz and you're not home or you're unable to do bedikas chametz then an agent can be used to check on your behalf
- If you forgot to do bedikas chametz or are unable to do bedikas chametz then do it the next day with a bracha
- After completing bedikas chametz, bittul chametz should be done
- Bittul is the process of renouncing ownership of any chametz that one may have wherever it may be
- You must understand what you're saying when you are nullifying the chametz
- There's an additional bittul chametz in the morning after burning the chametz
- Bedikas chametz should be done the night before leaving the house/apartment, as above
- If checking the entire house will be difficult to do at one time, parts of the house can be done on the nights leading up to Erev Pesach. No bracha is made and no bread has to be put out. Make sure to leave over at least one room in the house for the night of Erev Pesach so that a bracha can be made on that bedikas chametz

Bedikas Chametz for those that will not be home for Pesach

LEAVING FOR THE ENTIRE PESACH BEFORE THE NIGHT OF BEDIKAS CHAMETZ (FOURTEENTH NIGHT OF NISSAN)

Three options:

- 1) Have in mind to sell the entire house/apartment to the goy except for one room. In that room, do bedikas chametz the night before you leave without a bracha
- 2) Sell the entire house/apartment to the goy. Rent the room where you are going to be staying on bedikas chametz night from the owner. This will require you to check it that night. A bracha can be said on this bedika
- 3) Do both of the above

LEAVING FOR THE ENTIRE PESACH AFTER THE NIGHT OF BEDIKAS CHAMETZ (FOURTEENTH NIGHT OF NISSAN)

The entire house/apt can be sold to the goy except for one room. Bedikas chametz should be made in that room on the night of the fourteenth with a bracha

LEAVING FOR THE ENTIRE PESACH BUT LENDING OUT THE HOUSE/APARTMENT

- 1) All closets, dressers, cabinets etc. can be sold to the goy.
- 2) They must be clearly marked with tape etc. that they are sold.
- 3) Floors, countertops etc. should be cleaned. 4) Bedikas chametz should be done the night before leaving the house/apartment, as above

Burning the chametz

- The chametz can be burned at night but the minhag is to burn it during the day
- The chametz should be burned by the end of the fifth hour into the day
- The chametz should be burned until its charred
- Chametz should preferably not be placed into garbage cans that won't be picked up before six hours into the day
- The additional bittul chametz should be done before the end of the fifth hour