

# Hilchos Chol Hamoed

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## Kedusha

**Chol Hamoed is Yom Tov with a few leniencies. It's not weekday with a few stringencies**

- We're required to treat chol hamoed differently than a normal weekday.
- The food and drink should be better than during a regular weekday
- Clothing should be nicer than a regular weekday
- Many have the minhag to wear Shabbos clothes
- Although it's not a requirement to eat bread/matza, it's a mitzva to eat bread/matza in the evening and during the day
- It's preferable to drink some wine each day of chol hamoed
- Tables should be covered with nice tablecloths
- If yaleh viyavo was forgotten in Birchas Hamazon, don't repeat
- If Yaleh Viyavo was forgotten during Shemona Esrei then repeat, even at Maariv
- Chol Hamoed food expenses don't come out of our yearly allotment of money from Hashem
- We add sukkos/Pesach into Al Hamichya
- We say the Horachman for sukkos in Birchas Hamazon
- We say Migdol at the end of Birchas Hamazon

## Melacha

- All melacha is assur on chol hamoed just like Shabbos and Yom Tov
- It's also assur to give the melacha over to a non Jew
- There are five situations where melacha is allowed:
  - 1- for eating (even if the work is on the level of an expert it's still allowed)

2- non eating but it's for a Chol Hamoed/Yom tov or mitzvah (however, work on the level of an expert is not allowed)

3- in cases of loss (even expert work, as long as the work wasn't set aside to be done on Chol Hamoed)

- If it's only a small loss then it should not be done by an expert.
- If the work doesn't require exertion then it can be done by an expert even for a minor loss
- Work that requires a lot of energy is not allowed even for a loss. A shaila should be asked
- Work can't be scheduled specifically for chol hamoed. If it was then it can be done
- If there's a doubt if it's going to be a loss then it's also allowed
- Indirect loss is also allowed
- Work is allowed for someone else's loss and payment can be received for it
- Losing out on a profit is not considered a loss

4- for the public (expert work can only be done for Chol Hamoed/Yom tov. Non expert work can even be done for after Yom tov)

5- one who has no money (even an expert and even if it's not for Yom tov/Chol hamoed)

## Gezeiros

- There are three melachos that aren't allowed under most circumstances because the Rabanan want us to go into Yom tov looking our best and if we'd allow it on Chol Hamoed then perhaps people will push off doing it before Yom Tov because they'll have more time on Chol Hamoed:

1- haircuts and shaving

- children are allowed to have their hair cut
- Women can remove body hair and hair on the head for tznius reasons

- In very difficult circumstances a man who shaves often might be able to shave. Ask a shaila
  - Women's body hair removal is allowed
- 2- laundry
- even laundry for Yom tov is not allowed
  - Cleaning stains that happened on Yom tov is allowed if that garment is necessary for Yom tov or if it's going to get ruined or require a lot of money to fix
  - If you only have one garment then it can be washed
  - This applies to women's robes etc. tablecloths too
  - Children's clothes that get constantly soiled are allowed to be washed.
  - If you're traveling you're not required to bring every piece of clothing for children in order not to make a wash unless it's not a lot of work
  - If you run out of hand and dish towels they can be washed
  - Bath towels can't be washed
  - Linens for new guests can be washed
  - Underwear can be washed as necessary but it's better to buy new (unless it's going to be a big unnecessary expense or not affordable)
  - Adults clothing can't be added to children's laundry
  - Older children's clothing can be added
  - Clothing can be ironed but pleats and creases can't be made in the clothing
  - Shoes can be polished
  - Hats can be brushed
  - Wigs are considered clothing and can't be washed. Some say that it can be set and styled
  - It's better to buy new clothes unless you really can't use new ones and then you can only wash what you need
- 3- Nails are not allowed to be cut.
- if you cut your nails before Yom tov then they can be cut on chol hamoed
  - A woman going to mikva can cut her nails
  - If you didn't cut your nails before Yom tov because you were too busy then they can be cut on chol hamoed
  - Children's nails can be cut

- If one always cut their nails on Erev shabbos then they can always be cut on Erev shabbos of chol hamoed
- Nails can be cut using the teeth or fingers
- Children under Bar Mitzva can cut their nails
- If you cut your nails before Yom tov then a manicure is allowed. If not then they can only be colored not cut

#### **Common shailos**

- Children can color etc. adults should not
- Writing for Yom tov is allowed. For example: shopping lists, keeping score in a game etc.
- Cars can not be repaired including oil changes etc. if it's necessary for Yom tov ask a shaila
- Sewing is only allowed if it's done by a non professional or by a professional but they must change the stitching from its normal pattern
- Knitting etc. is not allowed unless necessary for anxiety
- Pottery etc. are not allowed
- Gardening, even by a non Jewish gardner, is not allowed
- It's preferable not to have routine checkups at a doctor. Especially if it involves a melacha
- Writing something down so that you won't forget is allowed
- Typing on a phone and computer is allowed
- Writing Torah is allowed
- Picture taking is allowed but they should not be developed
- Shopping is allowed only if it's a really good sale or if you won't have time after yom tov or if youre near the store now and you wont be going back there soon or if its necessary for Chol Hamoed and/or Yom Tov
- Apple picking etc. is really not preferable. However kids can do it but make sure to eat them over Yom Tov
- Shining silver is allowed
- Studying for school is allowed