

CHANUKAH

RABBI TZVI YAAKOV STEIN

WHEN TO LIGHT

- Maariv should be davened before lighting candles unless one is lighting before the proper time to daven Maariv (Tzeis/nightfall). Don't Daven without a minyan because of this Halacha¹.
- If you must leave the house before candle lighting time, the Menorah can be lit with a Bracha from the time of Plag Haminchah, which is approximately an hour before Shkiah. However, there must be enough oil for the Menorah to stay lit until a half hour after the regular lighting time which is approximately an hour and a half after Shkiah².
- The best time to light the Menorah is 10-15 minutes after Shkiah (approx. 4:45 pm) and it should stay lit until 36 minutes after Tzeis Hacoachavim (approx. 6:10 pm)³.
- If you can't light at the above time, you can light all night⁴ with a Bracha⁵. However, the sooner the better.
- From shkiyah and preferably a half hour before shkiyah, no haircuts, or eating bread\an egg worth of cake. Other foods are fine in any amount⁶.
- If the Menorah is lit for half an hour the closer to nightfall, the better (technically 36 minutes⁷) after the proper time, it can be extinguished⁸. However, if you are home it's better to stay lit for as long as possible⁹.

BIDIEVED

- Those that are delayed in lighting the Menorah and want to eat a meal, a shomer, who already lit, should be appointed to remind them to light. If there's no shomer, an alarm should be set¹⁰. Snacking on food is allowed even without a shomer¹¹. Women who are waiting for their husbands to light should preferably not eat a meal either¹².
- If there's a choice between lighting before Shkiah or lighting late into the night, lighting later is the better choice as long as someone in the household is awake¹³ (R' Moshe Feinstein zt"l says that you don't need to have anyone awake¹⁴).
- You only light the Menorah where you're going to sleep. Therefore, one cannot light at a Chanukah party, etc.¹⁵
- If you're not going to be home at all that night, then a shliach should be appointed to light for you in your home. No brachah is made¹⁶.
- It's better for you to light later in the night than to have a shliach light for you at the proper time¹⁷.
- If the spouse isn't going to be home until late, it's best to wait for them, unless they really don't care to be at the

lighting¹⁸.

MENORAH PLACEMENT

- Nowadays that we light inside, many say that you should light in a doorway so that you can be surrounded by Mitzvos¹⁹. Others say that the window is better because there will be more P'rumei Nissa there²⁰. Chasidim usually do the former and Litvish the latter.
- If no one on the street is going to see the Menorah, then putting it in the doorway is definitely better²¹.
- According to the basic Halacha, the Menorah should be lit in the part of the house where you eat because that's where the most Pirsum Nissa is²². However, use your judgement to light in the room where there will be the most Pirsum Nissa whether it's in the living room, kitchen, etc.²³
- The requirement to light a Menorah is only if you have a house to sleep in. However, one who is traveling in a car or plane etc. the entire night, can light a Menorah there²⁴, or turn on an incandescent flashlight (not an LED bulb) without a Brachah.
- Although the Menorah is supposed to be lower than 10 tefachim, it's still better to light in the window even if it's higher than 10 tefachim because publicizing the miracle is more important²⁵.
- In an apartment building and the window is higher than 20 Amos, if there's only one or two neighbors that will see the Menorah in the window then it's better to light in a doorway²⁶. If many people live across from the window, then it's better to light in the window (assuming that it's in a room that people in the apartment will see the Menorah too)²⁷.
- Yeshiva Bachurim should light wherever the Yeshiva allows²⁸.

TRAVELING ON CHANUKAH

- One who's leaving the house that night to travel and won't be sleeping home can still light the Menorah at home before leaving²⁹.
- Those that are eating and sleeping away from home can light the Menorah where they are and don't have to light at home. Especially if no one is going to be home³⁰.
- Those that slept away from home and the next day are still visiting at candle lighting time, can light there at that location, even though they'll be returning home that

night³¹. However, it's better to eat a meal where they were staying³² (very common on Motzai Shabbos).

- If one is away from home, sleeping in one house but eating in another, it's preferred to light where eating³³. If necessary, lighting where sleeping is allowed³⁴.
- If you're eating in a restaurant/catering hall, you can light where you're eating³⁵.
- A yeshiva bachur who doesn't eat or sleep at home but happens to be home at candle lighting time, can light at home³⁶.

CANDLE LIGHTING

- Some say to wash the hands before lighting the menorah³⁷.
- Those lighting after nightfall should have the candles set up earlier, so that they can light sooner³⁸.
- Most have the custom to light the candle on the right side and on subsequent nights, add the new candle to the left of the previous night's candle.
- It makes no difference in what order the candles are set up, only the order of the actual lighting makes a difference³⁹.
- Light from left to right⁴⁰. Stand to the far left of the Menorah and light the candle on the far left so that you don't need to pass over any candles⁴¹.
- If the candles go out, they don't need to be relit, even on Friday⁴² but it's better to relight them⁴³.
- This only applies after all the candles are lit at once but if one of the candles goes out before all the others are lit then the candles need to be relit since all the candles weren't lit at the same time⁴⁴.
- If the candles were never properly put in a place that they could've stayed lit (wind) then they're required to be relit without a brachah⁴⁵.
- If a candle goes out, don't relight it from any of the lit candles, since according to the Halacha they don't have to be relit, it's taking from a flame of a mitzva to light something that's not a mitzva⁴⁶. You can use the candles from the Menorah to light another person's Menorah since they're both mitzvos⁴⁷.
- One should not talk until all candles are lit⁴⁸. If there was talking after the first candle was already lit, then no new brachah⁴⁹.
- Haneiros Hallalu should be said after the first candle is lit while lighting the other candles. If that's not possible, finish saying it afterwards⁵⁰.
- The mitzva of Pirsumei Nissa is only at the time of lighting not afterwards, therefore there's no reason to add extra oil⁵¹. However there are those that say to sit next to the candles for a longer period of time.
- When lighting the candles, the shamash should be left on

the wick until most of the wick is burning because that's considered a respectful way to light a candle⁵².

- There should be a shamash lit next to the Menorah⁵³ even if there's a light on in the room⁵⁴.
- Its preferable to have a light on in the room in addition to the shamash⁵⁵.
- Each Menorah should preferably have a shamash⁵⁶.
- A Shamash, that is part of the Menorah, should be lit after all the candles so that it won't be mistaken for the actual menorah.
- Have in mind that the lighting of the Menorah is to praise and thank Hashem for all the miracles.⁵⁷
- Everyone in the household should gather for the Brachos and lighting of the Menorah⁵⁸.
- The prevalent minhag is that women don't light Menorah unless they live alone⁵⁹. However, if they want to, then they can have in mind not to be yotzi with the men and they can light with a brachah⁶⁰.
- There's no requirement to sit next to the candles, even for the first half hour. However, many have that custom. When the family is late for a Chanukah party or trip and it's causing shalom bayis issues etc. then leave immediately without sitting next to the candles (the candles can't be extinguished until a half-hour after nightfall).
- The minhag is that women don't do work for a half hour after the candles are lit⁶¹. The type of melachah to avoid is melachah that can't be done on Chol Hamoed. Cooking is allowed⁶².

SHABBOS

- The proper time to light on Friday is from plag hamincha, approximately an hour before sunset. The later, the better⁶³.
- On Friday, it's better (not required) to daven Mincha before lighting the Menorah⁶⁴.
- One should not miss davening with a minyan because of this Halacha⁶⁵.
- Menorah lighting is before Shabbos candles⁶⁶.
- If there's little time, then after one candle is lit, the Shabbos candles can then be lit, and you don't have to wait until all the candles of the Menorah are lit⁶⁷.
- Make sure there's enough oil to last until a half hour after nightfall⁶⁸.
- On Motzai Shabbos, either Havdalah or Menorah can be done first⁶⁹.

LIGHTING IN HOTELS

- It's preferable to light in the hotel room and if people will see it from outside then preferably put it in the window⁷⁰.

- If that's not possible (ex. danger etc.) light in the hotel dining room.
- Lighting in a lobby or hallway is really not preferable but if necessary then try and eat your meals there.

AL HANISIM

- Al Hanisim is said in Shemona Esrei and Birchas Hamazon⁷¹ but not in Al Hamichyah⁷².
- If it's forgotten, then they don't need to be repeated⁷³.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Jelled oil is acceptable⁷⁴.
- Any pure oil is acceptable.
- Oil and wicks can be reused from the previous night⁷⁵.
- Even though there's no requirement to eat a special Seudah, there's a mitzvah to do so. If songs are sung, then it will be considered a Seudas mitzva⁷⁶.

- Dreidels aren't muktza on Shabbos but playing for prizes is not allowed⁷⁷.
- On the last day of Chanuka it's best to stipulate that the oil that burns past a half hour has no kedusha and therefore it can be disposed of in any way⁷⁸.
- Many have the custom to burn all the extra oil from the menorah and the wicks⁷⁹.
- This only applies to the leftovers from the initial half hour. Anything from after that can be disposed of in any way⁸⁰.
- Visiting kivrei tzaddikim is allowed. Some say the neshama is not in the regular cemetery when we don't say tachanun. However, there's nothing wrong with visiting the cemetery.
- The Menorah can be cleaned on the eighth night, after its been extinguished. It doesn't have to be delayed until after Chanukah is over.
- The actual Menorah has not holiness. It can be disposed of in any way.
- Money tips to Rebbeim\teachers can come from Maaser.

הליכות שלמה (פרק טז דבר הלכה אות כז)	.55	ש"ת שבט הלוי (חלק ד סימן סה)	.27	משנה ברורה (סימן תערב סעיף קטן א)	.1
מגן אברהם (סימן תרעג סעיף קטן ה)	.56	הליכות שלמה (פרק יד סעיף ח)	.28	שולחן ערוך (סימן תערב סעיף א)	.2
הליכות שלמה (פרק טז סעיף ט)	.57	ש"ת אז נדברו (חלק ז סימן סט)	.29	מקדש ישראל (סימן קל)	.3
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף ט)	.58	הליכות שלמה (פרק יד סעיף יח)	.30	שולחן ערוך (סימן תערב סעיף ב)	.4
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אליה רבה (סימן תרעט סעיף קטן א)	.65	מקדש ישראל (סימן קצט)	.37	קובץ הלכות (פרק ב סעיף ז)	.11
שולחן ערוך (סימן תרעט סעיף א)	.66	מ"ב ס' תרע"ב ס"ק א	.38	הליכות שלמה (פרק טו סעיף ג)	.12
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משנה ברורה (סימן תרעט ס"ק ב)	.68	שולחן ערוך (סימן תרעו סעיף ה)	.40	ש"ת אגרות משה (אורח חיים חלק ד סימן קה	.14
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שולחן ערוך (סימן תרפב סעיף א)	.73	משנה ברורה (סימן תרעג סעיף קטן כה)	.45	שמעתי דמשה (שמועות סימן תרעב סעיף א)	.18
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משנה ברורה (סימן תרעב סעיף קטן ז)	.78	משנה ברורה (סימן תערב סעיף קטן ו)	.51	חוט שני (סימן יט סעיף קטן ג)	.23
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