

KITZUR HALACHOS

| PESACH PREPARATION | R' TZVI YAAKOV STEIN

CLEANING

- ✦ Parts of the house that will be sold don't need to be cleaned¹.
- ✦ If your minhag is not to sell real chametz, the parts of the house that are being sold should be perfunctorily checked for real chametz.
- ✦ Individual shelves in closets, refrigerators, etc., can be covered and sold to the non-Jew.
- ✦ There is a disagreement if there is a requirement to clean/check for crumbs. Therefore, one should try and be strict and clean/check for them².
- ✦ According to all opinions, crumbs on the floor, and certainly in between the cracks of the floors and walls, etc., are not a problem³.
- ✦ Any part of the house that's cleaned with cleansers that have chemicals in them no longer needs to be checked for pieces of chametz smaller than the size of an olive⁴.
- ✦ Any places in the house that are difficult to get to can be sprayed with a chemical cleanser and that's sufficient⁵.
- ✦ Cleaning is not necessary behind items that are not normally moved. This is because even if there is chametz behind it, there's no chance that it will be eaten. Examples are: refrigerators, ovens, washing machines, breakfronts, etc.⁶
- ✦ Floors need to be mopped. Nothing more than that is necessary⁷.
- ✦ Carpets need to be vacuumed. No more than that is necessary.
- ✦ Furniture needs to be brushed clean. If there are pillows, etc., they should be removed and checked.
- ✦ Clothing that won't be sold on Pesach which have pockets need to be checked⁸. If the clothes were dry cleaned or washed with detergent, then

they only need to be checked for larger pieces of chametz, not for crumbs⁹.

- ✦ Sefarim don't need to be checked for chametz unless they will be brought to the table on Pesach¹⁰.
- ✦ Bentchers (Birchas Hamazon) which are used year round shouldn't be used on Pesach.
- ✦ Children's toys need to be checked and should preferably be washed.
- ✦ The vacuum cleaner bag must be thrown out.
- ✦ Brooms must be cleaned¹¹. Many buy new brooms.
- ✦ Cars must be cleaned, including under and in between the seats. Areas that are not reachable can be sprayed with a chemical spray.
- ✦ Crumbs on the floor of the car are not a problem¹².
- ✦ Only places in the house that food is normally brought in to require checking. For example, if you never bring food into the bedrooms then it doesn't require cleaning or bedikas chametz¹³.
- ✦ If there are children in the household, there is a concern that food can be anywhere, and therefore everything in the house requires cleaning/bedikah.

KASHERING

- ✦ Refrigerator must be cleaned well including the hard-to-reach areas¹⁴.
- ✦ Lining the shelves of the refrigerator is not required but many have the minhag to line them.
- ✦ The ice maker should be cleaned extremely well, otherwise should not be used over Pesach.
- ✦ The area directly above the stovetop (range, hood, etc.) should preferably be covered with foil¹⁵. If not, it must be cleaned extremely well¹⁶.
- ✦ The area under the cabinets that are above the

- countertops where hot food is placed should preferably be covered with foil.
- ✦ Cabinets should be wiped down. Many have the minhag to line the shelves.
 - ✦ Tables that will be used with hot food should be lined with something that has some thickness to it. This can be done for countertops too¹⁷.
 - ✦ Tablecloths and towels used year-round can be used but they should first be washed with hot water and detergent¹⁸.
 - ✦ Coffeemakers, Keurig machines, urns, etc., that are used near chametz should preferably not be kashered.
 - ✦ Water coolers that have chametz near them during the year should preferably not be used. Otherwise, clean well and use.
 - ✦ Microwaves should preferably not be kashered for Pesach. If necessary, you can kasher a microwave the following way: Clean it well, make sure it hasn't been used for twenty-four hours, then boil water in it until it fogs up¹⁹. The glass dish cannot be used.
 - ✦ Microwave/convection ovens can be kashered but it's complicated. A shailah should be asked.
 - ✦ Kashering Utensils: Clean well²⁰, and wait twenty-four hours from its last use.²¹ Place into boiling water in a pot that wasn't used in the past twenty-four hours²² and wait for the water to reboil²³. Take it out and rinse it under cold water²⁴. Any clean pot that wasn't used in the past twenty-four hours can be used, but many have the minhag to kasher the pot first²⁵.
 - ✦ Kashering Counters: Clean counters well, and don't use with hot food for twenty-four hours. Make sure the surface is dry and pour boiling hot water over the entire counter²⁶. Make sure that every spot gets hit with water from the initial pouring²⁷. Alternatively, pour hot water and then iron the entire surface²⁸. Any clean pot that wasn't used in the past twenty-four hours can be used, but many have the minhag to kasher the pot first²⁹.
 - ✦ Countertops can also be covered with something thick and then they don't need kashering³⁰.
 - ✦ Kashering the Stovetop: Place a large pot or heavy-duty aluminum foil on each burner individually, preferably covering the entire burner (so the fire spreads as far as possible). Then turn each burner on high for twenty minutes (don't turn on all the burners at the same time)³¹. Cover the drip pan (the area in between the burners) with heavy duty aluminum foil for the duration of Pesach. You don't have to wait twenty-four hours before kashering.
 - ✦ Glass Stovetops: The actual burner area is kashered after turning on high for fifteen minutes. The areas in between the burners can't be kashered. Covering those areas may break the glass. The best thing to do is to get metal trivets and put them around each burner so that the pot rests on them and not on the glass.
 - ✦ Kashering an Oven: For self-clean ovens, turn on self-clean for the length of a cycle³². For non-self-clean oven, clean very well³³ and turn it on high for an hour³⁴. It's preferable to cover the inside of the oven door and preferably use foil on the grates throughout Pesach³⁵.
 - ✦ Anything being kashered with fire (not water) doesn't require a twenty-four hour wait before kashered³⁶.
 - ✦ Warming drawers can't be kashered. If necessary, ask a shailah.
 - ✦ Hotplates and blechs should preferably not be used. If necessary, ask a shailah.
 - ✦ Kashering Stainless Steel Sinks : Don't use the sink with anything hot for twenty-four hours. Clean well and dry. Starting at the drain, pour boiling hot water over the entire sink. Make sure that every spot gets hit with water from the initial pouring³⁷. Alternatively, hot water can be poured in to sink and a hot iron can be passed all around the bottom of the sink. (It is not necessary to iron the sink walls³⁸). Pour boiling water over the spout. Any clean pot that wasn't used in the past twenty-four hours can be used, but many have the minhag to kasher the pot first.
 - ✦ From Star-K: Barbecue Grill: the grates of a barbecue grill must be kashered with libun gamur, which is not recommended to be done by the average consumer. If a person purchases separate grates for Pesach, the rest of the grill can be kashered with libun kal, which can be

accomplished relatively easily, as follows: If the grill comes with a cover, light the grill with coals or gas, close the cover, and allow it to burn on its highest setting for an hour. If the grill does not have a cover, follow the same procedure, but make sure that all surfaces of the grill are covered with coals. As with all items being kashered, it is crucial that the grill be cleaned thoroughly of all food residue, which is often difficult in a barbecue grill. In fact, if the grill has too many holes, cracks, and crevices where food may get trapped, one should refrain from kashering the grill at all.

- ✦ Pacifiers, bottles, bibs, etc., that are used and washed with chametz should be put away and new ones should be used for Pesach.
- ✦ Expensive bottles, for example, for nursing pumps, can be kashered as described above.
- ✦ Highchairs should be cleaned and sprayed extremely well, and the tray should be covered with contact paper.
- ✦ Crockpots cannot be kashered³⁹.
- ✦ Food processor/mixer cannot be kashered.
- ✦ Indoor/George Foreman grills, etc., cannot be kashered.
- ✦ Rings and other pieces of jewelry that go on the hand should preferably be kashered, and at the minimum should be sprayed with cleanser and cleaned very well⁴⁰.
- ✦ Braces/dentures/retainers should be cleaned well. Preferably don't eat hot chametz within twenty-four hours of zman issur chametz⁴¹.
- ✦ For those that can afford it, kashering shouldn't be relied upon, and special Pesach utensils should be used⁴².

SELLING OF THE CHAMETZ

- ✦ Everyone is required to sell their chametz to a non-Jew because nowadays there are many things that have chametz in them that we may not be aware of⁴³.
- ✦ If you can't, or don't want to, clean certain areas or rooms, then they can be sold to the non-Jew. Since

they belong to a non-jew on Pesach and they don't belong to you they don't require cleaning⁴⁴.

- ✦ Because the procedure is complicated, the sale should only be done through a rav.
- ✦ Have in mind that you're not only selling the chametz that you're aware of, but you're also selling any chametz that you may have anywhere in the world.
- ✦ Since we're not allowed to have chametz of a non-Jew in our houses, we also must sell or rent the places where the chametz is located to the non-Jew⁴⁵.
- ✦ The rav will usually require a signature on the document in addition to the seller picking up something that belongs to the rav (usually a handkerchief, or a pen, etc.) and in exchange give the rav the authority to sell his chametz. This is why selling the chametz in person is better than via email.
- ✦ The rav is not acquiring your chametz. He's just agreeing to sell it or get rid of it for you.
- ✦ If you're traveling east for Pesach, and therefore Pesach will come earlier for you, then you must notify the rav so that he can sell your chametz at an earlier time⁴⁶.
- ✦ According to the halachah, all chametz can be sold for Pesach. However, many are strict not to sell chametz gamur (real chametz). This is a chumrah. Here's a basic list from Star-K website: Chametz Gamur: Beer, bread, cake, cereal with wheat, oats, or barley, cookies, cream of wheat, couscous, farfel, licorice, malt extract, all oatmeals, oat flour, pasta, pretzels, rolled oats, soy sauce, wheat gluten/wheat protein. Not Chametz Gamur: barley (pearled, raw, and packaged), dry cake mixes, glue, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, mustard, pickles, corn flakes, cosmetics, extracts, flour, food coloring, gefilte fish, kitniyos, matzah/matza meal that's not kosher for Pesach, medicines with chametz in them, modified food starch, Rice Krispies, salad dressing, vanillin, vinegar, vitamins, wheat germ, yeast, whisky (some sell it some don't).

שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תנב סעיף ז)	.24	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תמוח סעיף ג)	.1
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף ד)	.25	משנה ברורה (סימן תמב סעיף קטן לג)	.2
משנה ברורה (סימן תנב סעיף קטן כ)	.26	ארחות רבינו (פסח אות ט)	.3
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא הערה טו)	.27	קובץ הלכות (פרק ו סעיף לב)	.4
מקדש ישראל (חלק א סימן שצט)	.28	קובץ הלכות (פרק ו סעיף לב)	.5
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף ד)	.29	חוט שני (פרק ב סעיף קטן יא)	.6
מהרי"ל (הלכות הגעלה סימן יב)	.30	ארחות רבינו (פסח אות ט)	.7
אגרות משה (יורה דעה חלק א סימן נט)	.31	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תלג סעיף יא)	.8
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף כג)	.32	אשרי האיש (פרק נד סעיף ה)	.9
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף כג)	.33	קובץ הלכות (פרק ו סעיף יח)	.10
תשובות והנהגות (חלק א סימן קל)	.34	חוט שני (פרק ד עמ' פז)	.11
מקדש ישראל (חלק א סימן שצה)	.35	משנה ברורה (סימן תמב סעיף קטן טו)	.12
דרכי משה (יורה דעה סימן קכא סעיף קטן טו)	.36	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תלג סעיף ג)	.13
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא הערה טו)	.37	חוט שני (פרק ד עמ' פו)	.14
מפי הגרי"ד הרפנס שליט"א	.38	מגן אברהם (סימן תנא סעיף קטן מד)	.15
שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תנא סעיף א)	.39	קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף כה)	.16
נטעי גבריאל (פרק סד סעיף כד)	.40	משנה ברורה (סימן תנא סעיף קטן קטו)	.17
קובץ הלכות (פרק יא סעיף כז)	.41	דעת תורה (סימן תנא סעיף יח)	.18
אשל אברהם (סימן תנא סעיף כא)	.42	שו"ת להורות נתן (חלק ז סימן סב)	.19
קובץ הלכות (פרק ח הערה א)	.43	שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תנא סעיף ג)	.20
שולחן ערוך (אורח חיים סימן תמוח סעיף ג)	.44	רמ"א (אורח חיים סימן תנב סעיף ב)	.21
משנה ברורה (סימן תמוח סעיף קטן יב)	.45	משנה ברורה (סימן תנב סעיף קטן יח)	.22
שו"ת אגרות משה (חלק ד סימן צד)	.46	משנה ברורה (סימן תנב סעיף קטן ח)	.23