

A GUIDE TO EREV PESACH THAT OCCURS ON SHABBOS

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Many of us are quite familiar with the regular Erev Pesach routine: The *bechorim* go to a *siyum*, the chometz is burned, and we prepare for the Seder. However, every so often,¹ Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos and we must modify our routine. Let us review the *halachos* of Shabbos Erev Pesach. (After this year, it will not occur for another twenty years. The next occurrences will be in 2045, 2048, 2052, and then not again until 2072.)

Thursday – Taanis Bechorim/Bedikas Chometz

On a regular Erev Pesach the first-born males (*bechorim*) are obligated to fast. This year the fast is pushed back to Thursday. Those *bechorim* who do not wish to fast should attend a *siyum*. Thursday night after *tzeis hakochavim* (when it gets dark), one should immediately perform *bedikas chometz*. A *bracha* and *Kol Chamira* (same as usual) are recited.

Friday – Erev Shabbos

Chometz which is necessary for Friday night and Shabbos morning meals should be placed in a disposable container away from all Pesach food. Although chometz may be purchased and eaten all day Friday, the custom is to sell and burn the chometz before the *sof zman biur chometz* (i.e., end of the 5th *halachic* hour of the day) corresponding to when that time occurs on the actual day of Erev Pesach.² Burning it later could lead to confusion in subsequent years. *Kol Chamira* is not recited at the time of burning. All *keilim* should *l'chatchila* be *kashered* by this time. *Bedi'eved* one could *kasher keilim* until candle lighting on Friday.

The following preparations for the Seder should be made on Erev Shabbos: Roast the egg and *z'roa*, check and clean lettuce leaves, chop the nuts for the *charoses*, and grate the horseradish. Food cooked for Shabbos and Yom Tov should be *kosher l'Pesach* and cooked in Pesach pots.

After *chatzos* (midday) on a regular Erev Pesach, one may not perform various *melachos* (e.g., shaving, doing laundry).³ These *halachos* do not apply this year since Erev Shabbos is not actually Erev Pesach.

1 This occurs on average once every nine years, as frequently as every three years (e.g., 2005 and 2008), and as infrequently as every 20 years.

2 *Bedi'eved*, it can be burned or sold all day Friday until Shabbos begins.

3 See "The Busiest Day of the Year: The Laws of Erev Pesach" available at star-k.org.

Friday Evening and Shabbos Day

Except for *Hamotzi*, all meals should be eaten on *Pesachdig* utensils. These utensils should not be brought to the table until after all crumbs have been cleared away. Alternatively, one may use disposable utensils.

The procedure for *Hamotzi* for all Shabbos meals is as follows:

- Place the *lechem mishneh* on tissues or paper napkins on the table. No *Kosher l'Pesach* utensils should be on the table with the rolls.
- Eat the rolls carefully over tissues/napkins, so that any remaining crumbs can be wrapped in the tissues and flushed or shaken out of the napkins and flushed.
- It is advisable to use small fresh rolls for *lechem mishneh* (fresh rolls make fewer crumbs).
- Clear the table of all chometz.
- Discard all disposable items (e.g., plastic tablecloth, plates) used with chometz into a trash can.
- Serve the rest of the *Kosher l'Pesach* meal on *Pesachdig* or disposable dishes.
- For children who may leave crumbs, egg matzah may be substituted. Because the *bracha* on egg matzah is a matter of dispute, adults should use rolls for *lechem mishneh*.
- After making *Hamotzi* and eating more than a *kebei'a* (i.e., more than two *kezeisim*) of the roll, adults may eat egg matzah until the *sof zman achilas chometz*.
- On Shabbos Erev Pesach, regular matzah may not be eaten by anyone except children under six.

If one is concerned with eating any bread indoors, one may eat outdoors on the porch or in the backyard (if it is permissible to carry – i.e., within a *reshus hayachid*). Recite *Hamotzi*, eat the rolls, then sweep the crumbs off the table and off the porch. One may not sweep the crumbs into the wind or out of an *eruv*. Alternatively, eat over tissues or napkins and flush as above. One may finish the meal inside. *Birchas Hamazon* should *l'chatchila* be recited where the bread was eaten.

Shabbos Morning Meal

Shacharis on Shabbos morning should be scheduled earlier than usual because one must recite *Hamotzi* on *lechem mishneh* and finish all bread before the *sof zman achilas chometz* (i.e., end of the 4th *halachic* hour of the day).

After disposing of all chometz, one must recite the same *Kol Chamira* that is usually said when burning the chometz. This must be done before the *sof zman biur chometz* (end of the 5th *halachic* hour). It is recited even if it was already recited by mistake on Friday at the time of *biur chometz*.

One may continue his *Kosher l'Pesach* meal and recite *Birchas Hamazon* after these times.

Shabbos Afternoon Meal

During *Seuda Shlishis* on an ordinary Shabbos, one must have *lechem mishneh* and *l'chatchila* eat more than a *kebei'a* (i.e., more than two *kezaisim*) of bread after the time of *Mincha Gedola* (1/2 *halachic* hour after *chatzos*/midday). On this Shabbos, one may not eat bread or matzah at this time. What is the solution?

One should eat "other foods" during the afternoon meal, such as fish, fruits or *Shehakol* cakes (cakes made only from potato starch) any time between *Mincha Gedola* and sunset. However, if one eats these foods *after* the beginning of the tenth hour, one should be especially careful not eat too much thereby diminishing his appetite for the Seder.

For those who follow the custom of eating *gebrokts* on Pesach, cooked products containing matzah meal (e.g., *kneidlach*) may be eaten if they are consumed *before* the 10th hour of the day. Baked matzah meal products, including cake, may not be eaten anytime during the day.⁴

Splitting the Morning Meal

If time permits, it is preferable to "split the morning meal" by doing the following:

- Recite *Hamotzi* and eat more than a *kebei'a* from the rolls.
- Recite *Birchas Hamazon* and take a walk outside.
- Then, wash for *Seuda Shlishis*⁵ and recite *Hamotzi*.
- Be careful to finish the bread and dispose of the crumbs by the times indicated above.

If one "splits" the morning meal in this way, one must still eat something after *Mincha Gedola* as described above to fulfill the mitzvah of *Seuda Shlishis* in the prescribed time according to most opinions.

Motzei Shabbos and the Seder

All preparation for Yom Tov and the seder may not begin until Shabbos is over (*tzeis hakochavim*). As previously indicated, some preparations should be done before Shabbos. One may also wish to set the Seder table before Shabbos and eat in the kitchen on Shabbos to allow the Seder to begin as early as possible after Shabbos.

Kiddush and *Havdalah* (*yaknahaz*)⁶ are recited together at the Seder as printed in the *Haggadah*. One should recite *Borei Me'orei Ha'aish* using the Yom Tov candles, putting them together side by side while upright. They should not be tilted to touch each other. Alternatively, one may recite the bracha using a non-frosted

4 Whether or not one eats *gebrokts*, baked (and certainly cooked) matzah meal products may be eaten on Friday night.

5 This fulfills the obligation according to additional opinions.

6 *Yaknahaz* is a well-known acronym for *Kiddush* and *Havdala* on Motzei Shabbos. It stands for *Yayin, Kiddush, Ner, Havdala* and *Zman* (i.e., *Shehecheyanu*).

incandescent light bulb which was turned on before Shabbos (or was turned on by a timer that was set before Shabbos).

Besides *yaknahaz*, there is one additional change to the *Haggadah*: In the bracha of *Asher G'alanu* prior to drinking the second cup of wine, we reverse the order and say *min hapesachim u'min hazevachim* (instead of the opposite order). This is due to the change in the order of *korbanos* when Pesach occurs on Motzei Shabbos.

Final Thoughts

When Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos, it affords a rare opportunity to rest on Erev Pesach.

When I was a student in yeshiva, I once commented to Mr. Hyman Flaks z"l, the Executive Director of the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis, that when Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos, preparations are so difficult. He answered, "This type of year is my favorite year. My work in the field of kashrus is so hectic before Pesach. With a Shabbos to rest, I can come to the Seder feeling like a mentch!"⁷

Today, I understand exactly what he meant. As we all prepare for Pesach, amidst the hectic frenzy, we can look forward to the rare⁸ Erev Pesach which affords us an extra special *Yom Menucha*.

7 On that Shabbos, one should be careful not to say something like, "I am taking a nap this afternoon to be rested for the Seder."

8 All the following events are unique to the rare year when Erev Pesach is Shabbos:

- Purim and Lag Ba'omer are on Friday
- Fast of B"HB falls on Pesach Sheini
- We recite the *Slichos* before Rosh Hashana for eight days, the most days possible
- During the following Tishrei we read the Torah for 11 days in a row – from Monday, Erev Sukkos, through Thursday, Isru Chag, more than is done at any other time