

# Kashrus



Information and  
awareness for

## TU B'SHVAT 2026

### ERETZ YISROEL FRUITS ALERT!

Since there are concerns about טבל ומעשרות, make sure not to purchase any fruits or vegetables that originate from Eretz Yisroel, regardless whether they are fresh or dried, unless it is under a reliable hechsher.

It is important to be especially careful when buying in stores that are not under heimishe ownership to scrutinize the packaging to ensure that the item does not come from Eretz Yisroel.

Brought to you by



Issued by the  
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# Fruits

All dried fruit needs a reliable hashgacha due to the flavors that are added and because of the equipment that is used for drying the fruit.

Even fruits with a reliable hashgacha can get infested after packaging, and therefore one must be very careful with the following:

## Apricot



**Fresh:** are free of infestation. If any portion is rotten, it should be cut away and discarded.



**Dried:** Due to infestation detected in "dried apricots", this product will not be available under CRC certification for the current season, including Tu Bishvat.

We hope this situation is temporary and are working to resume availability of product that meets the standards of our supervision and is free of infestation.

## Orange



## Grapefruit



## Lemon



The peels are often infested with scales. There is a concern about the kashrus of the coatings used on the fruit. Therefore, the peels should not be used unless the outermost layer is peeled off.

When juicing it unpeeled with a juicer, worms that may be present in the peels can find their way into the juice. To filter out these insects, one should strain the liquid with an approved Must filter or with a shirt-like cloth. Alternatively, a thin outer layer of the fruit can be peeled off before juicing.

## Carob



It tends to be very infested. The insects are mostly found inside the fruit. One must first inspect the outside for signs of infestation, such as webbing, a lot of crumbs, or holes. If the outside looks clean, the carob should be broken up into small pieces, and the inside should be checked. If any of these signs of infestation are found, the entire carob should be discarded.

## Pear



## Apple



One should peel pears before eating or cooking/baking due to concerns with the kashrus of the coatings used on pears.

Bosc (brown) pears don't need to be peeled since the coating is not used on these pears.

## Blueberries



Whether fresh or frozen, even if they are of excellent quality, all types are often infested at the crown. In addition, scales can be found on the outer skin; therefore, they should not be eaten.

Those with the hashgacha of the CRC are carefully inspected by professional mashgichim and are free of insects.

## Blackberries



## Raspberries



All types, whether fresh or frozen, are very infested. It is impossible to inspect them properly; therefore, they should not be eaten.

The raspberry products under the hashgacha of the CRC are produced from raspberry juice which has been thoroughly filtered and is clean.

## Dates



**Fresh:** are free of infestation.

**Dried:** can be infested; therefore, one should check them for any sign of worms, webbing, or small brown crumbs, which, if found, should not be eaten. (White crumbs are dried sweetness and not a sign of worms).

Those from Tunisia and Pakistan are often infested and should not be eaten.

## Grapes



All kinds, from any country of origin, are often infested. Therefore, each cluster should be divided into smaller groups, which should then be thoroughly rinsed three times under a strong stream of cold water. One should rinse each grape entirely and strongly.

If one wants to eat them on Shabbos or Yom Tov, it should lechatchila be washed before Shabbos or Yom Tov to avoid the issur of borer.

When making wine or juice, the juice should be filtered with an approved Must filter or with a shirt-like cloth after juicing the grapes.

## Nectarine



## Peach



## Plum



They are free of infestation, If any portion is rotten, it should be cut away and discarded.

Rarely, insects may be found near the pit, especially if the pit is split. Therefore, some people are machmir to cut it open and inspect them.

Due to the concern about the kashrus of the coatings used on fruit, it is a hiddur to wash them with soapy water before using. One is not obligated to peel them.

**Prunes:** High- quality dried prunes (dried plums) are free of infestation.

## Strawberries



Whether fresh or frozen, all types of strawberries are very infested and should not be used.

The only way strawberries may be consumed is by following the steps outlined: One should trim the leaves off the top, along with a thin slice of the strawberry, being careful not to create a hole in the top of the berry. The strawberry should then be entirely peeled until the surface is smooth, without any dents, and washed under a strong stream of water while rubbing with the fingers.

Frozen strawberries with the hashgacha of the CRC have been carefully inspected by professional mashgichim and are free of insects.

## Figs



**Fresh:** can have worms on the outside. One should rinse it under a strong stream of water, rub on every fig, cut it in half, and remove

the bottom part opening.

**Dried:** Are very infested in the flesh between the seeds. Because it's difficult to see the worms, many people refrain from eating them.

## Pineapple



The peel and leaves are very infested. Pineapples should be peeled carefully, ensuring that no brown dots that are part of the peel remain on the fruit itself and then should be thoroughly rinsed.

If the leaves are used for ornamental purposes, they must be wrapped in plastic.

Pineapple products under the hashgacha of the CRC are produced with great care, ensuring that only the inner, clean part of the fruit is used.

## Raisins



All types and colors are very infested. The insects stick to the grapes while still in the fields. There is no way to clean them properly; therefore, raisins should not be used.

Products & baked goods under the hashgacha of the CRC are made only with currants, which appear like raisins, but are free of insects.

## Cherries



## Mango



## Pomegranate



## Papaya



## Coconut



## Kiwi



## Cranberries - Craisin



**Free of infestation**



# Nuts

Even nuts with a reliable hashgacha can get infested after packaging, and therefore one must be very careful with the following:

In a scenario where nuts have been stored for a long time, longer than 4 weeks, in a warm place, will often be infested, and one is obligated to inspect whether it has worms or any of the three signs of insects or mites. Medakdim will always inspect nuts before eating.

The three signs of infestation are:

1. A web: when you pour nuts out of the container and some of them stick to each other with a thread-like web, it's infested. When only single nuts stick to the container, it's static electricity and not a web.
2. Clusters: If, when breaking the clusters, they do not break down into fine crumbs (like salt or sugar), then it's a sign of infestation, if the product was stored in the refrigerator, the same result may occur due to moisture, and is not a sign of infestation.
3. Many crumbs: of the same size and appearance.

## Walnut



## Pistachios



## Cashews



Is usually free of infestation, and one is not obligated to inspect them; however, it is preferable to inspect them by opening each nut.

**Roasted or fried, or if they have a flavor or seasoning,** must have a reliable hashgacha..

## Peanuts



There is no kashrus or bishul akum concern with unshelled, even if salted, and they are also free of infestation.

Shelled are also free of infestation, but if they are roasted or fried, they must have a reliable hashgacha.

## Brazil Nut



## Hazelnuts



## Almonds



## Macadamia Nut



## Pumpkin Seeds



## Pecans



**Roasted or fried, or if they have a flavor or seasoning,** must have a reliable hashgacha.

**These are usually free of infestation,** and one is not obligated to inspect them. If there is a hole in a nut, it should be opened and checked. It should not be used if one notices worms or any of the three signs of infestation (listed above).

## Chestnuts



**Is often infested** and can only be used by cutting them in half and inspecting them. They can also be inspected after cooking. If it looks eaten away or appears spoiled, it is a sign of infestation and should not be used.

Cooked chestnuts under the hashgacha of the CRC are bishul Yisroel and free of infestation.

## Sunflower-seeds



**Unshelled,** must have a reliable hashgacha

**Unshelled, even salted,** are not bishul akum.

However, there may be a kashrus concern regarding flavoring and even possibly chalav akum.

Occasionally insects may be found; therefore, it is advisable to check them.