

Passover



בס"ד
VAAD HOEIR OF ST. LOUIS

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Dear Fellow Community Members,

We are pleased to present to you the 5783 Passover Guide of the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis. You will find in the coming pages much useful information to help you prepare for yom tov.

It is impossible to properly list all suitable products available for Passover, however we have endeavored to include some of the most pertinent information. Please call the Vaad office with any questions you might have regarding specific products.

In order to produce a guide with the most comprehensive information we have selected to include links to specific parts of the OU, Star-K and cRc Pesach guides.

As well as a special thank you to Mr. Alan Kandel - President of the Board and his fellow board members for their continued efforts to insure the success of our organization.

The continuous work performed daily by the Mashgichim and office staff of the Vaad Hoeir is appreciated by all kosher consumers in the St. Louis area.

**Wishing you all
a Chag Kosher
V'Sameach,**

**Rabbi Zvi Zuravin
Executive Director**

**Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky
Senior Rabbinical Coordinator**

Much appreciation is due to the אחרים of the Vaad for their continuous direction and input to insuring the highest level of kashrus supervision in St. Louis.



MARCH 2023 - ADAR/NISSAN 5783

The Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis is pleased to present the 2023/5783 Passover product information guide as a service to our community. We hope this will help you in your Yom Tov preparations. On behalf of the Vaad Hoeir Executive Board and staff and their families, I would like to extend our best wishes for a Chag Kosher V'Sameach to you and your families.

Alan H. Kandel
President

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Letter From the רבנים אחרונים



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The departure from Egypt, Yetziat Mitzraim, which is the focal point of the festival of Pesach, occupies a central place in Jewish life. We are enjoined to recall that event

on a daily and weekly basis, during our festivals, and particularly as we celebrate the Passover Seder together with our families. As such, it is a source of instruction and inspiration to each of us in our daily lives throughout our generations.

One of the fundamental features of the Yetziat Mitzraim is the unlimited Bitachon - the absolute reliance and complete trust in Hashem's Providence which found such poignant expression in the events of our Exodus from Egypt. A whole people, men, women and children, several million in number, eagerly leave a settled and prosperous land with all its fleshpots and material abundance, and go out on a long and perilous journey, without taking along any provisions, but with utter and absolute reliance on the word of G-d coming through Moshe Rabbeinu. Indeed, Hashem lovingly recalls the great "devotion of your youth" as we "followed Him into the wilderness, in a land that was not sown."

Furthermore, while departing from Egypt they did not follow the well-trodden and shorter route via the land of the Philistines, which although possibly entailing war, was by far the more prudent path than crossing the vast and desolate desert. For even in war there is the hope of victory, and even in defeat there is the possibility of escape and survival for many. But the chances of survival in the terrible desert without food or water were, by all laws of nature, virtually nonexistent. Nevertheless the Jewish people followed the seemingly

"irrational" route based solely on the word of Moshe, who spoke to them in the name of G-d.



"the Jewish people's resolute, unwavering trust in Hashem's Providence, and their daily conduct in accordance with the Hashem's Mitzvot regardless of the considerations of the human mind and the so-called 'laws of nature', are the constant companion and shining light for our people, for all times and all places."

This is even more remarkable considering that they were departing from a highly agricultural country, on a land of fertile soil which was richly irrigated by the faithful Nile -- in short, a land that was dependably secure in its natural resources and blessed with plentiful sustenance.

"Since the days of your departure from Egypt" and to the present day, these aspects of Yetziat Mitzraim, namely, the Jewish people's resolute, unwavering trust in Hashem's Providence, and their daily conduct in accordance with the Hashem's Mitzvot regardless of the considerations of the human mind and the so-called "laws of nature", are the constant companion and shining light for our people, for all times and all places.

We often encounter arguments challenging the Torah and Mitzvah observant Jew, regarding our "irrational" commitment to a way of life that seems wholly incompatible with the norms and values of contemporary society, and which seemingly impedes our quest for achieving material and social success, and our compatibility and integration with the peoples around us.

The response to those challenges is found in the story of Yetziat Mitzraim.

As in the case of Yetziat Mitzraim, when the Jews answered the Divine call and precepts, disregarding rational considerations, it turned out that precisely this approach was actually the road to their true happiness, not only spiritually but by them receiving

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the Torah and becoming Gd's chosen people, but also materially, in arriving in the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

So it is also today and always. By virtue of G-d's Torah, which is called Torat Chayim, "instruction for life" and its divine Mitzvot, whereby a Jew lives and experiences daily life and attaches him/herself to the infinite Creator, and thereby is liberated from all "natural" restrictions and limitations, and attains true happiness, both materially and spiritually.

"Remember your deliverance from Egypt every day of your life."

Remembering and identifying oneself with this aspect of Yetziat

Mitzraim is a source of limitless strength for each of us to make every day meaningful, and enables us to celebrate Passover in a manner that illuminates our lives throughout the year.



**Best wishes for
a Chag Kasher
V'sameach!**

**Rabbi Menachem
Greenblatt**

Rabbi Yosef Landa



Cleaning for Pesach



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These notes are compiled from Rabbi Greenblatt's annual lecture to women as a guide to properly kosher for Pesach. Any questions on these halachos should please be directed to Rabbi Greenblatt.

I. Cleaning for Pesach:

- **As an overall rule: Pesach cleaning ≠ spring cleaning!** You can take this as an opportunity to clean your house/garage/car thoroughly, but that's not the point. For instance, dusting, weeding out your closets, etc. are not part of cleaning for Pesach, per se.
- **Clothing:** If you never put *chametz* in your pockets, then you do not have to go through cleaning them. But, since most all of us will put candy, etc. in our pockets at some time during the year, then you must go through to make sure that it's not there anymore.
- **Books:** If you want to use them at the table that you are eating on Pesach, then you should clean them out. This is because if you have even the smallest crumb in a book, and then bring it to the table and it mixes with your Pesach food, you may have rendered your food and dishes *trief*. You should not use *benchers* that you normally use during the year on Pesach. Put them away with the rest of the *chametz* stuff that you are going to sell.
- **Pets:** One cannot feed their pets *chametz* food, because if you own the pet and the pet benefits from the food, then you benefit from the food.
- **School projects:** One does not need to get rid of the cute noodle projects since the *chometz* on them is rendered inedible.
- **Toys for outside only:** These do not need to be thoroughly cleaned. A simple inspection will suffice.
- **Anything truly beyond one's reach** does not need to be cleaned. For instance, if there is a space between your



countertop in the kitchen and your fixed stove, then you do not need to try to squeeze between there or move the stove to clean that space. But, movable appliances (like many refrigerators) should be moved in order to clean behind and around them. A good rule of thumb is that if you do not move a piece of furniture during the year (i.e. a big dresser) then you do not need to move it to clean for Pesach.

- **Small kitchen appliances** (i.e. toasters, bread makers) that one is not going to use on Pesach do not need to be cleaned. Just put them away with the things that will be sold.
- Stains (like on books or clothing) are not a problem.

II. Kashering the Kitchen:

- Materials that can be *kashered* include metal, wood, natural stone and natural rubber.
- Materials that cannot be *kashered* include earthenware (ceramics), plastic, other synthetics.
- Regarding glass vessels, there is a possibility for them to be *kashered* with a special method called *milui v'irui*. It involves soaking the glass for 24 hours, three times. If one needs to do this, consult your Rav.
- The way to *kasher* something is dependent on the way in which it is used. In general, there are three ways to *kasher* items listed above.
 - *Hagalah* (via boiling water)
 - *Libun Kal* (dry heat which is hot enough to singe straw)
 - *Libun Gamur* (dry heat which is glowing hot)
- In general, before anything can be *kashered* (as delineated below), it should be thoroughly cleaned and then left unused for 24 hours. For things that cannot be totally cleaned and will always have a bit of grime left over, one should use a

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caustic or ammonia-containing cleanser. The reason for this is that these cleaners render the grime that is left over *batul* (void and totally unfit to be eaten).

- When one *kashers* vessels by method of *hagalah* it can be accomplished by one of the following methods:
 - o Boil water in a tea kettle that you normally use during the year (after it has been cleaned).
 - o Put the items that need to be *kashered* into a pot of boiling water. One should ideally use a Pesach pot for this purpose. But, one can also use a pot from year-round use that has been cleaned well and has not been used for the past 24 hours. The *minhag* is to *re-kasher* the pot if you used a Pesach pot to *kasher* the utensils.
- **Refrigerator:** Since there are no hot foods in the fridge, there is no need to *kasher* it. All one needs to do is clean it thoroughly and empty it of any *chametz* (or separate the *chametz* items and cover them away). One does not need to line the shelves with anything. If it is your tradition to cover the shelves, you should punch holes in the covering so that the air can circulate through the fridge.
- **Tables & Countertops:** If they are made of synthetic materials, there is no way to *kasher* them for Pesach and they should be covered with any material that prevents liquid or heat from seeping through (i.e. plywood, plexiglass, contact paper etc.). If they are made of natural granite or stainless steel, you can *kasher* them by *hagalah* (pouring boiling water over the area).
- **Sinks:** Stainless steel sinks can be *kashered* by *hagalah*. They should be thoroughly cleaned but can be used for the next 24 hours before the *kashering*, if one only uses cold water. The

boiling water needs to be poured over the entire sink, as well as the faucet and handles.

- **Garbage disposal:** clean by pouring down bleach and boiling water.
- **Spray nozzle from the kitchen sink:** These are very difficult to clean and *kasher*, secondary to the small holes. The best thing is to buy a new one at a place like Home Depot. They cost a few dollars.
- **Oven:**
 - o If self-cleaning: These are *kashered* by *libun*. One should first remove any actual pieces of *chametz*, then let it run through a self-cleaning cycle. This *kashers* the oven as well as the racks inside. One does not need to wait 24 hours before *kashering* a self-cleaning oven.
 - o If not self-cleaning: Clean it very well with a caustic cleaner, then put it on the highest temperature setting (550°F or broil) for 1.5 hours. Ideally, one should put a disposable aluminum pan with water in the oven during the last half-hour so that the steam can also *kasher* it (by *hagalah*).
- **Stove:**
 - o If gas: Clean all the components (drip pans, grates and caps) very well, and then place them in the oven while you are *kashering* the oven. Alternatively, you can put pans of water over the burners and then turn them on high for about 20-30 minutes. This will spread the flame and *kasher* the burner grate. If one has a self-cleaning oven, beware of putting the components inside, since the heat from the self-cleaning cycle may ruin their enamel finish. Instead, apart from *kashering* the oven,



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one can put it on 550°F (like the regular oven) and then put the stove components inside for *kashering*. Note, if you don't *kasher* the drip pans, then they should be covered with foil or purchase new ones for Pesach.

- o If electric: Clean and then turn it on to the highest setting and let it become red-hot for a few minutes.
- o Stovetop: Should be cleaned very well, and then covered with a double layer of foil.
- o Stove knobs: Clean very well, does not need to be covered.
- o Exhaust fan above: Clean with a caustic/ammonia cleaner
- o Vents that come up to the stove that is on top of an oven: Clean with a caustic/ammonia cleaner.
- **Utensils:** Metal ones that are used during the rest of the year can be *kashered* by *hagalah* after you clean them well and don't use them for 24 hours. This is not true for knives because of the handle/blade interface.
- **Freezer Ice Maker:** Clean it well, as one tends to put their *schmutzy* hands in there all year round.

- **Microwave:** They are harder to *kasher* for Pesach. Either do without it (since you only have 3-4 days between the Yom Tovim to use it anyway) or buy a new one for your Pesach investments.
- **Urn for hot water:** These are very hard to *kasher* for Pesach since the steam from the hot drinks, made under the spigot during the year comes up into the spigot. Either get a new one or ask your Rav specifically about this.
- **Dishwasher:** Since there are many plastic components contained within, it cannot be *kashered* for Pesach.
- **Tablecloths:** Wash them in hot water with detergent, they can then be used on Pesach.

III. Miscellaneous:

- One should preferably buy all the eggs they will need for Pesach before the holiday starts.
- Beware of things that have powder coatings (i.e. gloves for washing dishes). This powder is often made from a corn base and is problematic for Ashkenazim.



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Tuesday Night, April 4

Bedikas Chametz

On Tuesday night after 8:13pm, one should immediately perform Bedikas Chametz (Search for Leaven). The beracha and kol chamira are recited.

Wednesday, April 5

Taanis Bechorim - (Fast of the Firstborn)

Erev Pesach

Chametz may not be eaten after 10:32am according to the Magen Avraham or after 10:56am according to GR"A.

Biur & Bitul Chametz

(Burning & Nullification of the Chametz)

Sale and burning of the chametz must be completed by 11:48am according to the Magen Avraham or by 12:00pm according to the GR"A.

Wednesday Evening, April 5

1st Night of Pesach - Eruv Tavshilin

Candle lighting time is 7:10pm.

Thursday, April 6

2nd Night of Pesach

Candle lighting is not before 8:14pm

Note: The beracha of She'hecheyanu is recited with the candle lighting on the first and second nights only.

Chatzos (Midnight)

For the first two nights of Pesach is at 1:04am

Tuesday Evening, April 11

7th Night of Pesach

Candle lighting time is 7:15pm

Wednesday Evening, April 12

8th Night of Pesach

Candle lighting is not before 8:20pm

Thursday, April 13

Yizkor is said on the 8th day of Pesach

Passover ends

Pesach ends with nightfall at 8:21pm

Note: Those who sold their chametz through their Rav should allow at least 30 minutes at the end of Pesach, for the Rav to buy the chametz back.

Millstone Mikvah Schedule for Men:

Wednesday, April 5th Erev Yom Tov - Hours TBD

Tuesday, April 11 Erev Yom Tov (2nd Days) - Hours TBD

Shabbos Mikvah Schedule for Men:

April 3 - 7 (Monday thru Friday) - Not Available

April 8 - 9 (Shabbos & Sunday Chol Hamoed) - Available

April 10 - 14 (Monday Chol Hamoed thru Friday) - Not Available

April 15 - (Shabbos) - Available



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The Rabbi Sholom Rivkin Tzedakah Merle Hartstein Maos Chitim Fund

Please consider making a gift to The Rabbi Sholom Rivkin Tzedakah/Merle Hartstein Maos Chitim Campaign. These funds provide many families in our community with assistance for Passover and during the year. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please make your checks payable to Maos Chitim and send to Vaad Hoeir 4 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146. Credit/Debit Cards donations also can be made online by going to www.stlmaoschitim.com

Hag'olas Kalim - Kashering Utensils for Passover

Kashering utensils for Passover use will take place, G-d willing, **Sunday April 2nd at the Vaad office from 10am - 4pm.** *We will only be kashering kiddush cups and cutlery necessary for Pesach.*

Kelim Mikvah

The Kelim Mikvah located on the Millstone Campus. The Kelim Mikvah is accessible through a rear door entrance. The code to enter is aleph, gimme, hey. Please use the parking lot in the front of the building.

Shatnes Testing

The Vaad Hoeir Shatnes Center in memory of Barbara Mendelson is located at the home of Hillel Anton, 915 Dalkeith Lane in University City. Please call 314-997-4416 prior to dropping off and picking up to make sure someone is home.

Items Produced Locally for Pesach under OVK certification:

DRIED FRUIT:

Available at **Mound City** when bearing Kosher for Passover certification.

MILK (Fresh):

Schnucks & Dierbergs will be carrying a variety of brands of white milk in plastic gallon and 1/2 gallon jugs, which will have a **P** or **KP** in the **date code (e.g. 04/12/23P)**. This milk is not Cholov Yisroel, but uses Passover certified vitamins.

Cholov Yisroel milk will also be available in **Schnucks-Ladue & Kohn's**. Please look for the special Passover designation.

NUTS (RAW):

Mound City: when bearing the OVK Kosher for Passover sticker.

PREPARED FOODS:

Kohn's Foods: Kishka, Knishes, Kugels, Packaged Dinners, Complete Prepared Dinners, Sponge Cakes, Macaroons and Passover Rolls.

The following is an adaptation of a Halachic statement released by the cRc regarding medicine, cosmetics and toiletries for Pesach. The Rabbanim Achraim of the Vaad Hoeir have adopted this Pesach policy regarding medicines, cosmetics and toiletries.

Important: Do not discontinue use of liquid, chewable or any other medicine without consulting with your doctor and Rabbi.

Medicines Guidelines

- All pill medication – with or without chametz – that one swallows are permitted. Vitamins and food supplements do not necessarily fall into this category.
- Liquid and chewable medications that may contain chametz should only be used under the direction of a doctor and Rabbi, who will judge the severity of the illness, the likelihood that the medicine contains chametz, and the possibility of substituting a swallowable pill.
- Liquid and chewable medications that contain kitnios may be consumed by someone who is ill.
- For the general laws of taking medicine on Shabbos and Yom Tov, please consult your Rabbi.

Cosmetics & Toiletries

- All varieties of blush, body soap, creams, eye shadow, eyeliner, face powder, foot powder, ink, lotions, mascara, nail polish, ointments, paint, shampoo, and stick deodorant are permitted for use on Pesach.
- Many liquid deodorants, hairsprays, perfumes, colognes, and shaving lotions contain denatured alcohol, and therefore should not be used on Pesach unless they are listed as chametz-free on a reliable list of Pesach products. Such products manufactured in the USA may be used.
- Lipstick, mouthwash and toothpaste which contain chametz should not be used.

The Shopping Guide: An Important Reminder

As a reminder to the public to be aware that just because a product is found in the “Kosher for Passover” section of a supermarket, does not necessarily mean it is Kosher for Passover. Most food products require special certification for Passover. Look for a “P” designation next to the kosher symbol, or specific “Kosher L’Pesach” mention made on the product. Since there are some products on the market that say “Kosher for Passover,” **but contain kitniyos** (such as peanuts, beans, peas, similar items from the legume family, corn, bean sprouts, alfalfa sprouts, green beans, mustard, and foods derived from these) or other

problematic ingredients, we recommend that consumers use accepted national certifications such as the OV, OU, OK, Kof-K, cRc, Star-K, etc. It is very important to check every label. Local St. Louis supermarkets do not consult the Vaad regarding Passover products. Often they do not even separate Kosher for Passover from Non-Kosher for Passover items. Only Kohn’s is under Vaad Hoeir supervision.

Please do not hesitate to call the Vaad office with any questions, especially if you are in doubt.

Quick Links for Pesach



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Quick Web Links for Pesach Certification Lists:

- The cRc has created an online tool to determine if a specific lipstick product is acceptable for Passover..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for OU products acceptable without P..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- List of OU Infant Formulas & Nutritional Supplements..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick personal care list..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick medicine list..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick pet food list..... [CLICK HERE](#)



List of Non-Food Items that Do Not Require Passover Certification

Air Freshener (only solid, not liquid)

Aluminum foil

Aluminum baking pans

Baby oil, ointments & powder (talc)

Bags (paper or plastic)

Band Aids

Body wash

Bowl and tub cleaners

Candles

Cardboard

Carpet cleaners

Charcoal

Cheese Clothes

Coffee Filters

Conditioners

Contact Lens Solution

Contact Paper

Cosmetics (except lipstick - need to ascertain does not contain chometz)

Crock Pot Liners

Cupcake holders

Cups (paper, plastic or Styrofoam)

Deodorants (All stick are acceptable, liquid - need to ascertain does not contain chometz. All that are manufactured in USA are acceptable)

Dental Floss/Tape (any unflavored including waxed are acceptable)

Detergents (laundry and dishwashing)

Drain openers

Fabric protectors

Furniture polish

Glass cleaners

Hair gels, sprays and mousse (All that are manufactured in the USA are acceptable. If not, need to ascertain that it does not contain chometz.)

Hand Sanitizers

Hydrogen Peroxide

Insecticides (Sprays, some traps contain chometz)

Isopropyl alcohol

Jewelry polish

Latex Gloves (only powder free, not powderless or with powder)

Lotions

Napkins

Nail Polish

Nail Polish Remover

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List of Non-Food Items that Do Not Require Passover Certification

Oven cleaners

Paper towels

Petroleum Jelly

Perfumes (All that are manufactured in the USA are acceptable. If not, need to ascertain that it does not contain chometz.)

Plastic containers

Plastic Wrap

Plates (paper, plastic or

Styrofoam)

Scouring pads

Shampoos

Shaving cream, gels & lotions

Silver polish

Skin cream

Soaps

Suntan lotion

Tissues

Water filters

Wax for Braces

Wax paper

