

THE LAWS OF *Eruv Tavshilin*



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This Pesach, 5783, we will have the privilege of performing the special *mitzvah* of *Eruv Tavshilin* prior to the first days of *Yom Tov*. When *Yom Tov* falls out on Thursday and Friday – leading into *Shabbos* – every household must prepare an *Eruv Tavshilin* before *Yom Tov* in preparation for *Shabbos*. By setting aside some cooked food and baked food in honor of *Shabbos* before the onset of *Yom Tov*, one is permitted to prepare *Shabbos* foods on Friday.

The Background

Cooking on *Yom Tov* is only permitted if the food will be consumed on *Yom Tov*; cooking for a later date, be it a regular weekday, another day of *Yom Tov*, or *Shabbos*, is forbidden. Accordingly, when *Yom Tov* occurs on Friday, it should be forbidden to prepare food on Friday for the next day, *Shabbos*. How, then, is one able to prepare fresh, tasty food for *Shabbos*?

To alleviate this concern, *Chazal* instituted a new procedure called *Eruv Tavshilin*, literally, “the mixture of foods”. If one prepares food for *Shabbos* before the onset of *Yom Tov*, he may continue the preparation for *Shabbos* on *Yom Tov*, because it is considered a mere continuation of the original cooking.

The Procedure

The *Eruv* should be prepared on *Erev Yom Tov*, this year, Wednesday, April 5th.

We set aside a cooked item and a baked item for the *Eruv*.

- The cooked item should be at least the size of a *k'zayis* (approximately 1 fl. oz.). It should be an item that is usually accompanied by bread in a meal (e.g., meat, fish, or eggs); the common custom is to use a hard-boiled egg.
- The baked item is customarily a *matzah*, and it should ideally be whole and at least the size of a *k'beitza* (2 fl. oz.), but it is sufficient if the piece is at least the size of a *k'zayis*.

The baked and cooked items are held in one's hand, and the *bracha*, “*Baruch Atah Hashem... al mitzvas eruv*,” is recited, followed by the declaration, “*Bahadein eiruva...*” as printed in many

siddurim. The declaration states that, with the *Eruv*, preparation for *Shabbos* may take place on *Yom Tov*. It is important that one understand the meaning of the declaration; if necessary, the declaration may be recited in English.

After the declaration, the food items should be stored in a safe location, so that they remain intact until *Shabbos*. It is customary to use the *matzah* for *lechem mishnah* on *Shabbos* and then to eat the *Eruv* foods during *seudah shlishis*.

What Kind of Preparations are Permitted?

The *Eruv* is primarily designed to allow cooking and baking on Friday for *Shabbos*. In addition, the *Eruv* permits activities indirectly related to food preparation (such as lighting *Shabbos* candles from a pre-existing flame). It also permits preparations which do not involve *melachah* (such as straightening up the house for *Shabbos*).

NOTE: It is important to stress that preparing the *Eruv Tavshilin* only permits actions which may be performed on *Yom Tov* and were prohibited merely because they were done in preparation for *Shabbos*. Actions which are prohibited to be done on *Yom Tov* (e.g., turning on and off lights and using electric appliances) are **never** permitted, even if an *Eruv* was prepared. Additionally, the *Eruv Tavshilin* only allows preparation for *Shabbos*; preparation for a weekday remains prohibited.

Note: This article with sources can be found online at <https://consumer.crc kosher.org/publications/the-laws-of-eruv-tavshilin-pesach-2023/>

