

PROPER DISPOSAL OF CHAMETZ



Every Jew is obligated to celebrate the entire holiday of Pesach without owning or benefiting from *chametz*. There are three components to ensuring that this obligation is fulfilled:

1. *Mechiras chametz* (sale of *chametz*)
2. *Bedika* and *bitul* of *chametz* (the search for and nullification of *chametz*)
3. *Biur chametz* (destruction of *chametz*)

MECHIRAS CHAMETZ

One who cannot dispose of all of his *chametz* before Pesach must authorize his Orthodox Rabbi, *in advance*, to sell this *chametz* for him to a non-Jew. This transaction is completely legal, giving the non-Jew all rights of ownership over the *chametz* that has been sold to him. After the conclusion of the festival, your Rabbi will purchase the *chametz* from the non-Jew. **You should wait at least one hour after Pesach before using this *chametz*, to give the Rabbi time to complete the re-purchase of the *chametz* and restore its ownership to you.**

All *chametz* that is to be sold should be placed in a special room or section of the house, together with *chametz* dishes and utensils, until after Pesach. This area should be locked or closed off so that access to it will be difficult. Be sure not to leave any items there which you may need to use during Pesach. It is important to list your home address as well as your office address when selling your *chametz* through your Rabbi.

BEDIKAS CHAMETZ

The search for *chametz* is made on Thursday evening, April 18, 2019, immediately after dark. By that time, your home should be thoroughly cleaned of all *chametz* except for that which you have set aside for the mitzvah of *bedikat*

chametz and that which you intend to eat before it becomes prohibited, 10:11 A.M. Daylight Savings Time in the Chicago area. In preparation for the search, it is customary to spread 10 small pieces of bread around the house. If at all possible, this should be done by someone other than the person who will be conducting the actual search. It is important to be very careful when placing the pieces of *chametz* that they each be placed in a sealed plastic bag, or other complete containment (e.g. wrapped in paper towel or napkin and totally taped closed with masking tape), to prevent the spread of *chametz*. Traditionally the search is conducted by the light of a single-wick candle. In contemporary times, however, many *poskim* (rabbinic decisors) recommend searching with a flashlight to facilitate performing a thorough and safe search. The person conducting the search first recites a blessing:

ברוך אתה ד' אלקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו
במצוותיו וציוונו על בעור חמץ.

*Ba-ruch a-ta ado-shem elo-keinu me-lech ha-o-lam
asher kid'shanu b'mitz-votav v'tzi-vanu al bi-ur chametz.*

Once the blessing has been recited, one then proceeds with the search, going from room to room to look for the 10 pieces of *chametz* which were intentionally left out, as well as any other *chametz* which may have been overlooked or left behind when cleaning for Pesach. Using a feather as a brush (where practical), all the *chametz* is gathered into a bag or cloth, and carefully set aside to be burned the following morning. During the course of the search one should make every effort not to speak except for matters directly pertaining to the search itself. Speaking between reciting the blessing and commencing the search may actually require repeating the blessing.

BITUL CHAMETZ

After the search for the *chametz* has been completed, a

formal renunciation of ownership or desire to benefit from any undiscovered *chametz* in one's possession must be recited by everyone. Since the person making this declaration **must** understand what he or she is reciting, it may be recited in any language the reader understands. Here is the *bitul chametz* statement, in Aramaic and English:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי דלא חמיתה ודלא בערתה
ודלא ידענא לה לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא.

"Any *chametz* or leaven that is in my possession, which I have not seen, have not removed and do not know about, should be nullified and become ownerless, like dust of the earth."

BIUR CHAMETZ

On Friday, April 19, 2019, *chametz* may be eaten no later than 10:11 A.M. Daylight Savings Time in the Chicago area. All *chametz* to be sold that remains in one's home must be kept in a sealed cabinet or room throughout Pesach, as explained above.

All *chametz* that has not been sold (see prior section) must be burned on Friday, April 19, 2019, no later than 11:31 A.M. Daylight Savings Time in the Chicago area. If burning the *chametz* is impossible or impractical, one should be certain to dispose of it in another fashion, such as by flushing it down the toilet or placing it in a public trash can. Please note that due to environmental concerns, if the *chametz* was collected and/or placed in plastic bags during the process of *Bedikas Chametz*, the *chametz* should be removed from any plastic bag or plastic container before it is burned, and the plastic bag should be placed in a public trash can. The following formula is recited at the time of burning:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי, דחזתה ודלא חזתה, דבערתה
ודלא בערתה, לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא.

"Any *chametz* or leaven that is in my possession, whether I have recognized it or not, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, should be nullified and become ownerless, like dust of the earth."

As a community service, the Agudah will hold a public *biur chametz* on Friday, April 19, 2019 between 8:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. in the parking lots of Yeshivas Ohr Boruch at 2828 W. Pratt Blvd. and JDBy at 3200 W. Peterson Ave., both in Chicago. To allow for complete burning in time, no *chametz* will be accepted after 11:00 A.M. ▲

Pre-Pesach Cleaning Checklist

Disposal of *Chametz* Check List

DID YOU REMEMBER TO...

- ☐ ...check your medicine cabinet for sprays, toiletries, and cosmetics including mouthwash, that are not recommended for Pesach use?
- ☐ ...thoroughly clean and wash the playpen, including padding, as well as the high chair and crib, carriages and strollers, as well as toy boxes?
- ☐ ...make certain that your pets are not fed *chametz* during Pesach?
- ☐ ...turn your children's pockets inside-out to shake out all crumbs; see that all family members do the same with their clothes? (Women should also be careful not to leave candy, gum, or *chametz* cosmetics in their purses.)
- ☐ ...thoroughly clean the glove compartment of the car, and vacuum the inside of both the front and back seats, as well as the trunk?
- ☐ ...meticulously clean your kitchen area: stove, cupboards, refrigerator, table top, shelves, sink, etc.?
- ☐ ...*kasher* any utensils or silverware before Friday, April 19, 2019 at 11:31 A.M. (in the Chicago area)?
- ☐ ...check the drawers, filing cabinets, etc. in your office, as well as in your home, for *chametz* you may have forgotten?
- ☐ ...replace all vacuum cleaner bags?