

THE CONGREGATION AHAVAS ISRAEL
5773/2013
GUIDE TO
SIMPLIFYING PESACH PREPARATIONS

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**SOME OF THE FAQ'S ABOUT BEDIKAS CHOMETZ: BEFORE, DURING,
AND AFTER**

QUESTION	ANSWER
<i>Must I inspect a room into which it would be unusual to bring chometz?</i>	No.
<i>Must I inspect a room into which it is not routine or commonplace to bring chometz?</i>	No.
<i>I have a room into which it is routine and commonplace to bring chometz. Must I inspect this room if it will NOT be used during Pesach?</i>	There is no need to search there, but lock it up and sell your chometz.
<i>Do any of the answers above <u>change</u> if I have a child in the house?</i>	YES! ANY room to which a child has access should be considered a room into which it is routine and commonplace to bring chometz!
<i>Must I move an extremely heavy piece of furniture (for example, a breakfront) in order to search for chometz that's behind/under it?</i>	There is no <u>obligation</u> to move it. NOTE: If you <u>know</u> there is chometz behind/under it, it is praiseworthy to remove the chometz (if it's not too difficult).
<i>Must I remove crumbs?</i>	Crumbs that even just <u>might</u> get into your food <u>must</u> be removed. There is no actual requirement to remove crumbs that <u>certainly</u> will <u>not</u> get into your food. That notwithstanding, people usually clean <u>beyond</u> what's mandatory. This is praiseworthy— UNLESS IT LEAVES ONE SO EXHAUSTED THAT FOCUSING ON THE HAGADDAH IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
<i>I have objects which certainly came in contact with chometz, such as my pots and pans. Must I clean them?</i>	There is no need to clean them, but store them away and sell your chometz.
<i>I have objects which may or may not have come in contact with chometz. It would <u>not</u> be <u>unusual</u> if they <u>did</u> come in contact with chometz. Must I clean them just to be on the safe side?</i>	There is no need to clean them, but store them away and sell your chometz.
<i>Do any of the above answers apply if my minhag is NOT to sell chometz gamur (for example, bread; cake; noodles)?</i>	Dispose of chometz gamur if you have the minhag not to sell it.
<i>What do I do with perishable food that is NOT chometz but is NOT approved for Pesach?</i>	You have the right to store it in the refrigerator or freezer if it is sealed and <u>clearly</u> labeled.
<i>What do I do if I do not understand the Aramaic declarations recited after Bedikas Chometz, after the Zman Biur, and after making the brachah for an Eiruv Tavshilin?</i>	Say the declarations in a language you do understand.

HOW TO PREPARE VARIOUS ITEMS FOR PESACH

No list can possibly address every single item in a home!

ITEM	WHAT TO DO
BALLOONS	Store them away unless you know they have no starch coating
BENSCHERS	Store them away
BOOKS	Keep them away from the table and any other food surface
BROOM	OPTION ONE: Clean it OPTION TWO: Store the all-year-'round broom away and use a broom that's dedicated to Pesach
CABINETS	STEP ONE: Empty them STEP TWO: Clean them with a liquid cleanser STEP THREE: Line them
CARPETS	Vacuum them well
CLOTHES - NOT STORED AWAY FOR PESACH	OPTION ONE: Wash them with detergent or dry-clean them OPTION TWO: Brush them well, followed by shaking out any pockets that may have had chometz in them
COUNTER-TOPS – NOT KASHERED	STEP ONE: Clean them with a liquid cleanser STEP TWO: Cover them with a material that will prevent contact between Pesach food and the counter-tops
FAUCET	Clean it
FLOORS	STEP ONE: Sweep them STEP TWO: Clean them with a liquid cleanser
FREEZER	STEP ONE: Defrost it STEP TWO: Clean it with a liquid cleanser
OVEN - CONVENTIONAL	STEP ONE: Clean it with an oven cleanser STEP TWO: Leave it idle for 24 hours after the cleaning STEP THREE: Turn it to its highest temperature and let it warm up STEP FOUR: Once it reaches its highest temperature, let it stay there for 1-2 hours STEP FIVE: Clean the broiler but do not use it during Pesach
OVEN – SELF-CLEANING (NOT “CONTINUOUS CLEANING”)	Run one cycle NOTE: In the older models, the entire inside of the door must be covered with heavy-duty foil <i>after</i> running the one cycle
PASTE – VINYL; WALLPAPER; WASHABLE	Treat it as if it may contain edible chometz
PET FOOD	Treat it as if it may contain edible chometz
PLAY-DOH	Contains chometz
REFRIGERATOR	STEP ONE: Empty it STEP TWO: Clean it with a liquid cleanser STEP THREE: Cover the racks (but leave air-holes in the cover)
ROACH TRAPS	Treat them as if they may contain edible chometz

RUBBER BANDS - ORTHODONTIC	It's preferable to rinse off the powder that's on them (if any)
RUGS	Vaccum them well
SEFORIM	Keep them away from the table and any other food surface
SINKS	NOTE: Kashering them is not a simple task, and may require an Even Meluban. Contact Rav Eisenman or other competent rabbinic authority for guidance!
STOVE-TOP - GLASS	STEP ONE: Turn on the burners to their highest setting for no less than one hour AND don't turn them off until the elements glow STEP TWO: Cover the areas between the burners with heavy-duty foil <i>DURING PESACH, DO NOT PLACE ANY FOOD ON THE AREAS BETWEEN THE BURNERS</i>
STOVE-TOP – METAL (WITH GAS JET BURNERS OR ELECTRIC COILS)	STEP ONE: CLEAN THE STOVE-TOP STEP TWO: TURN ON THE BURNERS FOR 20 MINUTES <i>DURING PESACH, DO NOT PLACE ANY FOOD ON THE STOVE-TOP</i>
TABLE-TOPS	STEP ONE: Clean them with a liquid cleanser STEP:TWO: Cover them with a material that will prevent contact between Pesach food and the table
TOYS	OPTION ONE: Remove the chometz that's on the toys OPTION TWO: Render the chometz unfit for consumption by cleaning the toys with a liquid cleanser OPTION THREE: Store the all-year-'round toys away and use toys that are dedicated to Pesach
VACUUM CLEANER	Dispose of the bag

WHAT DOES NOT NEED SPECIAL PESACH CERTIFICATION?

No list can possibly address every single item in a home!

Aluminum foil & pans (Note: There are those who wipe the pans down before use)
Ammonia
Baby Oil
Baking soda
Bottled water - ONLY unflavored
Charcoal
Cleansers (even for ovens)
Cocoa Powder – ONLY if 100% pure and not produced in Europe
Coffee Filters
Contact Lens Solution
Cosmetics (even lipstick)¹
Crock Pot Liners
Dental Floss – ONLY unflavored
Detergents (even for dishes)
Eggs – ONLY raw, whole eggs and PREFERABLY, purchase them before Pesach
Extra virgin olive oil – ONLY unflavored
Eye-drops
Hair conditioner
Hydrogen Peroxide
Isopropyl Alcohol
Lactaid Milk – ONLY when purchased BEFORE Pesach
Lactaid Pills – ONLY non-chewable²
Meat - ONLY when fresh/frozen AND in the original factory packaging AND having no ingredients added. NOTE: Raw hamburgers may have additives. Ground meat and re-packaged meat require reliable Pesach certification.
Milk – unflavored, and PREFERABLY, purchase it before Pesach
Medicated creams (for example: baby ointment; skin cream)
Paper goods (for example: towels; plates; **cups FROM AMERICA**; napkins)
Plastic goods (for example: tableware; cups; bags; bowls)
Polishes (even for silverware)
Poultry - ONLY when fresh/frozen AND in the original factory packaging AND having no ingredients added. NOTE: Ground poultry and re-packaged poultry require reliable Pesach certification.
Salt - ONLY non-iodized (Note: Do NOT purchase if you see additives listed on the label.)
Scouring pads
Seltzer - ONLY unflavored
Shampoo
Soap
Styrofoam goods (for example: cups; plates)
Sugar - ONLY white granulated cane sugar (Note: Do NOT purchase if you see additives listed on the label.)
Talcum powder - ONLY when it's **100%** talc
Toothpaste³
Vaseline (and other brands of petroleum jelly)
Wax for Braces
Wax Paper⁴

¹ The status of lipstick is discussed by contemporary halachic authorities. Rav Eisenman's ruling is incorporated herein.

² The status of Lactaid non-chewable pills is discussed by contemporary halachic authorities. Rav Eisenman's ruling is incorporated herein.

³ The status of toothpaste is discussed by contemporary halachic authorities. Rav Eisenman's ruling is incorporated herein.

⁴ Parchment paper does need special Pesach certification.

ALCOHOL IN “BEAUTY AIDS”

Here are five examples of “beauty aids:”

- Cologne
- Deodorant spray
- Hair spray
- Mouthwash
- Perfume

It is permitted to own and use these five “beauty aids” *even if* they contain the following seven items:⁵

- Ethyl alcohol
- Ethanol
- Ethyl acetate
- Isoamyl alcohol
- Isoamyl butyrate
- Denatured alcohol
- SD alcohol

Baby wipes may have alcohol added to their liquid. If the alcohol is one of the seven items mentioned above, it is permitted to own and use the baby wipes in question.

FOR INFANTS AND THE ILL

On pp. 88-89 of the OU Passover Guide for 2013/5773 (available for downloading on OUPassover.org), there is a list of infant formulas, dietary supplements, and non-dairy milks. The products on these two pages are not certified Kosher for Passover by the OU. Nonetheless, the OU has identified these products as halachically acceptable **for infants and those who are ill.**

⁵ The status of these five “beauty aids” when they contain the seven items above is discussed by contemporary halachic authorities. Rav Eisenman’s ruling is incorporated herein.