

Dear Friends,

With thousands of people making Passover at home for the first time due to the ongoing pandemic, I hope that this easy-to-follow guide will help you in your Passover preparations. Whatever you can do to make your house “Kosher for Passover” is extremely praiseworthy and beloved by God. I have also created a new website sellchametzonline.com where you can learn more about chametz and fill out an online chametz sale form. Wishing you a joyous, healthy and kosher Passover!

Passover is a completely awesome holiday. Going “Kosher for Passover” is a spiritual way to do spring cleaning! This cleaning is also for the sake of preparing for the Festival and you may hire someone to do the cleaning for you. When your house looks and feels clean – you feel good too. While preparation requires some effort, understanding what is required can make the task cheaper, faster, and easier, giving you more time to prepare for the spirit of the Holiday. Do what you can at your own pace.

Pro Tip: If making a Seder, use the Hagaddah to check you have everything need for the Seder a few days in advance.

CLEANING

We clean our homes, apartments and offices to ensure that all *chometz* we own is removed or sold before Pesach. *Chometz* is any food made from grain and its derivatives (beer, spirits, bread, crackers, cereals etc.) Kabbalah teaches that we get rid of spiritual *chometz* too (bad habits, selfishness, cynicism). Jews of European decent also do not eat *kitnios*: rice, corn, legumes and their by-products. Quinoa isn't kitnios. *Pro Tip — Dust isn't chometz.*

First step: Clean every place that a child or lazy bachelor could leave *chometz* - checking pockets, back-packs, purses. Check closets, cupboards, bookshelves, and under couch cushions. If *chometz* fell into a place where it is unreachable by a dog or child you are not required to get to it. This cleaning ensures that we will not have the prohibited amount of *chometz* in our possession on Passover (1oz of edible *chometz*). Also make sure to vacuum the whole house, sweeping and floors and other living areas. *Pro-Tip Don't forget cleaning and checking your garage, storage areas, cars and your office!*

KOSHERING THE KITCHEN

We treat *chometz* in the kitchen very seriously because we don't want to accidentally eat even a morsel of *chometz* on Passover. First, put away your *chometz* dishes and utensils for the duration of Passover. Second, carefully clean the kitchen as you would normally. After the kitchen is clean, we make it kosher for Passover. Wash down counters and tables where you will place food with a cleaning agent. Stone counters can be koshered with boring water from an electric kettle. For other counter tops - cover them with something durable like shelf liner or vinyl tablecloth. Clear the pantry to make room for Passover foods. Clear out fridge and cover shelves with wax paper or plastic inserts. Shelves that you are keeping chametz dishes or actual chametz should be papered over so they are not seen or accidentally used on Passover.

Pro tip — I don't recommend using tin-foil as this tears easily and is unsightly.

THE CONCISE GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR HOME FOR KOSHER FOR PASSOVER 2020 EDITION

- Ovens: Remove racks and clean with oven cleaner outdoors. Clean inside very well with oven cleaner (use protective gear if needed). Let stand for 24 hours. Place on high for one hour with racks inside. Self-cleaning ovens: clean oven with cleaner, run for one cycle. After your oven cools, cover inside of oven door with tin foil.
- Clean out food from under burners and broiler. Scrub stove top. Boils pots of water over every burner on high for ten-fifteen minutes to make grates kosher for Passover. Use disposable foil inserts or tin-foil under grates.
- Stainless sinks and faucets: Clean, don't use with hot foods or liquids for 24 hours, then pour boiling water over sink starting from drain upwards. Ceramic sinks: Use a plastic container placed inside because they cannot be kashered.
- Microwaves that are plastic should not be kashered unless it's your only oven. Metal microwave ovens must be cleaned, let stand for 24 hours, then boil a cup of water inside for a few minutes.
- Pots, cutlery, plates and cups: It's ideal to own two sets, dairy and meaty, only for Passover use. If you cannot then follow these instructions: Wash metal pots, cutlery, and serving utensils, let stand for 24 hours, then immerse in continuously boiling water. Teflon coated pots and all frying pans are cannot be safely made kosher for Passover – buy a new one. China, ceramic and porcelain cannot, under most circumstances, be kashered for Passover use.
- Glass: Utensils made of Corningware, Pyrex, Duralux, and Correlle may be kashered, if needed, as metal pots (see above). Regular glassware - we highly recommend buying glassware for Passover use, as koshering glassware for passover is complex and time-consuming.

BEDIKAS CHOMETZ - CHECKING FOR CHAMETZ

It is a Mitzvah to check for *chometz* before the Festival. Turn off the lights in your home and use a candle to check your home, office, garage. We perform *Bedikas Chometz* the night preceding the *weder* after dark. Ten pieces of *chometz* wrapped in foil/wrap/newspaper, are placed around the home before the search. During the search, check every room in the house, collect the ten pieces, and any leftover *chometz* and destroy it by 11am Erev Passover. Find the prayer for this ceremony at the beginning of every Haggadah. If you share a house with non- Passover observers just check your personal areas are *chometz* free.

MECHIRAS CHOMETZ *Selling the stuff*

Any *chometz* that you do not consume or dispose of must be sold to a non-Jew for the duration of Passover. This is done locally through a qualified Rabbi who acts as your agent. You can also sell online at SELLCHAMETZONLINE.COM before Passover. These items can be kept in your home in a closed and secure place. They can be used a few hours after Passover.

WHAT TO BUY/EAT *How to get new stuff*

Buy all fresh fruits, vegis, eggs, milk, & meat etc. preferably before Passover. Look for special Passover certified processed foods and products at major supermarkets, marked with a "P". There are other customs for Passover about certain foods and matzah. Ask your parents, or your Rabbi what custom you should follow. Several reliable organizations certify kosher products year round and for Passover. They have websites with detailed information about kosher for Passover products: [CRC](#), [OU](#), [Star-K](#), [OK](#), [KosherQuest.com](#), Not all products need a "P", as is detailed in these on-line guides to their supervised products. Passover cookbooks have helpful recipes for traditional and new Kosher for Passover dishes.

CELEBRATE *Seder time*

Now that the house is ready for Passover, find a bunch of interesting Hagaddahs to discuss and read, speak about freedom, slavery, Exodus from Egypt, Matzah, drink Four Cups of wine, and have eight days AMAZING days of celebration. *Have a joyous and kosher Passover!*

- *Pro-Tip If you need to run a quick, but fully "kosher" seder, download Rabbi Yonah's "10 Minute Seder"*
- This is according to Ashkenazi custom, Sephardic customs may vary. Questions? rabbi@picoshul.org