

Jewish Law for Erev Pesach that Falls on Shabbat – 5785 (2025)

When Erev Pesach coincides with Shabbat, many standard routines are altered. Below is a halachic guide to navigating this unique situation in accordance with Jewish law.

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1. Bedikat Chametz – Checking for Chametz

- Bedikat Chametz is performed on **Thursday night, the night of the 13th of Nisan**.
- A **beracha** is recited, and **Kol Chamira** is said, as is customary.
- Care should be taken to conduct the search thoroughly, as no further bedikah will be performed on Friday night.

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2. Biur Chametz – Burning and Disposing of Chametz

- Chametz is burned **before midday on Friday**, as burning it later may cause confusion in future years.
- One should **only leave over as much chametz** as they plan to eat on Shabbat.
- Any remaining chametz can be disposed of by on Shabbat itself:
 - **Breaking it into small pieces and flushing it down the toilet**
 - **Placing it in a trash container near the curb or in a public place**, making it hefker (ownerless)
- On **Shabbat morning**, one must still ensure **all chametz is removed by the latest permissible time** (see MyZmanim.com for exact times).

- **Egg matzah** can be used as an alternative to chametz; it is permitted for **Ashkenazim until the chametz deadline**. Leftover egg matzah can be saved for after Pesach or served to children, elderly, or Sephardim.

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3. Taanit Bechorot – Fast of the Firstborn

- The fast is observed on **Thursday** instead of Friday.
- Participating in a **siyum** (completion of a Talmudic tractate) is an acceptable way to avoid fasting.
- One should not be overly obsessed with this.

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4. Shabbat Meals – Eating Chametz Without Issues

- **Friday night and Shabbat morning meals require lechem mishneh (two whole loaves or two slices of bread or two rolls or bagels)**, which should be chametz or egg matzah.
- The simplest way to handle chametz on Shabbat is to **use a disposable tablecloth** and discard it after the meal.
- Large pieces of chametz should be disposed of in accordance with section 2, but **crumbs are not a concern** once placed in the trash, even inside the house.
- All **chametz must be consumed before the latest permissible time** (see MyZmanim.com).

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5. Seudah Shlishit – The Third Meal

- Due to the proximity to the Seder, this meal should be kept **light**.

- Ideal options include **fruit, meat, fish, or egg salad**.
- If one wishes to eat matzah, **egg matzah is permitted (even for Ashkenazim)**.
- Overeating should be avoided so as not to diminish one's appetite for the Seder.

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6. Motzei Shabbat – Havdalah and the Seder

- **Preparations for the Seder may not begin until Shabbat ends.**
- The Kiddush at the Seder includes Havdalah in the **Yaknehaz** order:
 - יין (Yayin – Wine)
 - קידוש (Kiddush – Sanctification)
 - נר (Ner – Candle)
 - הבדלה (Havdalah – Separation)
 - זמן (Zman – Shehecheyanu Blessing)
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- There is **no need for Besamim** (spices).
- For the **blessing over fire (Borei Me'orei Ha'Esh)**:
 - Two Yom Tov candles should be held next to each other and placed back on the table as decoration.
 - If small children are present, ensure the candles are placed in a **safe location**, such as the kitchen.
- In the Havdallah we say “**Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Le’Kodesh**” to acknowledge the transition from Shabbat to Yom Tov.

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Chag Kasher v'Sameach!