

**Congregation Beth Sholom**  
**Rabbi Barry Dolinger**

## *Pesach Guide 5778*

### **1) Mechirat Chametz (Sale of Chametz)**

This is when it starts to feel real and things start to get exciting.. As you are no doubt aware, during the eight days of Pesach, homes must be cleared of all leavened grain products from five prohibited species of grain (wheat, barley, spelt, oats, and rye). Ideally, all such food items are to be destroyed. To ease the financial burden, though, the custom has become to arrange a sale whereby all such items are placed in designated areas and sold for the eight-day period to a non-Jew. During the entire festival, the designated cabinets should not be opened, and no items in the designated areas should be used (that would either be stealing or render the sale a sham).

I will be available to become the agent for the selling of your *chametz* at the following times:

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 8:00 am @ CBS  
Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 – 8:30 am @ CBS  
Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 9:30 pm @ CBS  
Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 8:30 am @ CBS

I encourage you strongly to see me personally for the sale of your *chametz*. It is very difficult to make dozens of individual appointments. For those who find it impossible to do so, I have enclosed a contract that can be used to make me your agent. Please mail it to CBS as early as possible. I will e-mail to confirm that I have received it.

*Please note: All chametz must be sold by 11:47AM on Friday morning, March 30, 2018 (chametz cannot be eaten after 10:44 AM). Please take care of your sale before this time. Burning of chametz supervised by the Providence Fire Department will be available at the Providence Hebrew Day School from 9:15 – 11:00 am on Friday, March 30, 2018.*

### **2) Maot Chittin**

There is an ancient custom to give charity before Pesach to see that all Jews have their Holiday needs taken care of. After all, freedom from slavery is primarily about a) learning to live in social responsibility and b) empathy for those who suffer. As opposed to *Matanot Le'evyonim*, which can easily be taken care of on the day of Purim, *Maot Chittin* are needed well in advance of Pesach to allow for proper distribution of funds. Please send in your donation to the CBS office as soon as possible. Checks should be made out to "CBS Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" with "*Maot Chittin*" in the subject line. The money will be distributed to those in need within our community.

### 3) Shabbat Hagadol Derasha

On the Shabbat before Pesach, the Ashkenazic custom is for the Rabbi to give an extended discourse on the laws, customs, and observances of Pesach. Likely, it is called *Shabbat Hagadol* (the Great Sabbath) either because the Israelites were informed they were going to depart Egypt on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nissan that year, which fell on Shabbat, or because of the reference to the *Yom Hagadol – Great Day* in the *haftarah* reading. This year, the Derasha will be entitled: **Haseder Shebaseder (the order of the order): Four Questions, Four Children, Four Seders?** This will take place on **Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 am**, immediately following morning services which will start at 8:30 am. The Rabbi will present an analysis of the structure of *magid*, the storytelling section, and try and provide order to an ironically disorderly-seeming text.

### 4) Pesach 5778 Product Information

A Pesach product list follows. I have tried to include as much detailed information as possible, but it still remains a partial list. Further, it follows the Ashkenazi custom of avoiding kitniyot on Pesach. If you have any questions, you can call me to check on a particular product.

*Jews with Diabetes* face special challenges over Pesach. The Star K & Jewish Diabetes Association have prepared very helpful guides of Halacha, advice – and recipes! Please see the following links for more information:

<http://www.jewishdiabetes.org/>

<http://star-k.org/kashrus/kk-passover-diabetics.htm> (Pages 61-68)

Of course, you can call me with any additional questions you may have at (401) 621-9393 or send me an e-mail me at [rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org](mailto:rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org).

#### **Product Information:**

*Air Freshener:* Does not require Pesach Certification

*Alcohol:* See: *Rubbing alcohol*

*Aluminum Foil and Pans:* Do not require Pesach Certification

*Ammonia:* Does not require Pesach Certification

*Artificial/Alternative Sweeteners:* The following brands may be used: Pure Aspartame (not Equal), Kojel Kosher L' Pesach Sweet N' Good, Splenda, Leiber's Kosher L'Pesach Sugar Substitute, Sweet N' Low, Gefen OUP, V.I.P. Master OUP.

*Agave* – Requires Pesach Certification

*Maple Syrup* – 100% pure maple syrup does not require Pesach Certification.

Others require Pesach certification.

*Truvia* – Not acceptable for Pesach

*Baby Foods:* *Formula* – Materna formula, made in Israel is the only non-kitniyot Kosher for Pesach formula. However, even Ashkenazim can use formula with kitniyot for

infants. Enfamil, Prosobee, Carnation, Isomil, and Similac contain kitniyot. However, they may be used without special Pesach certification. This applies to both powder and liquid varieties. For a complete listing of acceptable, kitniyot-based formulas see:

<http://oukosher.org/index.php/passover/article/5710>

Please note that two Enfamil products, Nutramigel Lipil and Pregestimil, along with Alimentum, contain non-kosher ingredients. One should consult with one's doctor and the Rabbi before using them.

*Jars* – Generally Require Pesach Certification. However, some products may be used without Pesach certification. Please consult the Rabbi for more details.

*Cereals* - Even rice cereals must be considered Chametz without Pesach certification.

*Pedialite*- Pedialite, Pediaflor and Pediasure contain kitniyot, but not actual chametz. See "*formula*" for usage.

*Baby Oil, Lotions and Medicated Ointments*: Do not require Pesach Certification.

*Baby Wipes*: Do not require Pesach Certification.

*Baking Powder*: Requires Pesach Certification.

*Baking Soda*: Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Bleach*: Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Braces*: Wax used for braces is OK for Pesach use. See below under "*rubber bands*".

*Candy*: Requires Pesach Certification. Speak with the Rabbi for specific candies that are acceptable without Pesach certification.

*Chapstick*: May be used if new and unflavored.

*Cigars*: Flavored cigars may contain chametz-based alcohol.

*Cocoa*: Any 100% pure cocoa (no additives or lecithin) including Hershey's Pure Cocoa Powder and Nestlé's Pure Cocoa does not require Pesach certification.

*Coconut*: Shredded coconut requires Pesach Certification.

Virgin Unrefined Coconut Oil does not require Pesach certification.

*Coffee*: ***Instant*: Requires Pesach Certification (concern over the spray dry process), except for Classic Roast Unflavored Folgers (not decaffeinated) and Original Unflavored Nescafe Taster's choice (not decaffeinated). Elite and Gefen can be used only with an OUP.**

***Coffee "Singles"*: Require Pesach Certification, except for Classic Roast Unflavored Folgers (not decaffeinated) and Original Unflavored Nescafe Taster's choice (not decaffeinated).**

*Regular & Decaf*: All unflavored caffeinated ground or whole bean coffees may be used on Pesach without special Pesach Certification. All unflavored decaffeinated coffees may be on Pesach without special Pesach Certification (Some authorities are concerned that ethyl acetate is sometimes used for decaffeination. While Ethyl acetate is produced from reactions using Ethanol, which can, in theory, be produced from wheat, this is an extremely uncommon source of Ethanol production in the U.S.; moreover, the Ethyl Acetate remains only in infinitesimal

quantities in the final product in any event. This is why some suggest caution with decaffeinated teas and coffees).

*Flavored:* Requires Pesach Certification.

*Cosmetics:* Do not require Pesach certification. However, some are strict about flavored lipsticks.

*Dates:* Require Pesach Certification as their “glaze” may be problematic.

*Dental Floss:* Any unflavored dental floss does not require Pesach Certification.

*Dill:* *Seeds* - Are considered kitniyot

*Leaves* - Are not kitniyot and may be used without special Pesach Certification

*Dishwashing Detergent:* Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Eggs:* *Fresh* - Do not require Pesach Certification. Since commercial eggs are bleached and/or cleaned, they may be purchased on Pesach as there is no concern of chametz attaching to the egg.

*Liquid* - Requires Pesach Certification

*Fennel:* *Seeds* - Are considered kitniyot

*Leaves* - Are not kitniyot and may be used without special Pesach Certification

*Fenugreek:* According to many, it is considered a kitniyot spice. See “spices”.

*Fish:* *Frozen, Unprocessed* - Does not require special Pesach Certification if there are no other ingredients besides fish, water and salt.

*Frozen, Processed (including gefilte fish)* – Requires Pesach Certification.

*Fresh* - Does not require special Pesach Certification.

*Tuna* – Many brands do not require Pesach certification; please consult the Rabbi. Many “supermarket” and “kosher” brands have Pesach certification.

*Flour:* Considered Chametz even if one does not know that it has come in contact with water (commercial flour is sometimes treated with moisture in some manner and the custom is to be careful once the holiday has started).

*Fruit:* *Frozen* - whole or sliced, without additives and with no syrup - does not require Pesach Certification.

*Canned* - Requires Pesach Certification

*Fresh* - Wax on whole, unpeeled produce may contain kitniyot, but the kitniyot are batel and not a problem at all.

*Dried* - Requires Pesach Certification (chametz flour may be used to prevent sticking).

*Raisins* – see “raisins”

*Food Coloring:* Requires Pesach Certification

*Garlic:* *Fresh* – Does not require Pesach Certification

*Peeled* – Requires Pesach Certification

*Glue:* Any glue does not require Pesach Certification.

*Grains:* Many are chametz or kitniyot and should be disposed of even if they have not been converted into flour. However, flax and hemp are not chametz. (Some consider flax and hemp to be kitniyot).

*Halvah:* Is acceptable for Ashkenazim (even though it may contain corn syrup, as it is merely a non-noticeable kitniyot derivative).

- Honey:* Any brand of 100% pure honey is acceptable for Pesach. Some brands add corn syrup, (which some permit as shemen kitniyot or a new world food, and by definition not kinyot, and some forbid as kitniyot)
- Horseradish:* *Raw* – Does not require Pesach Certification  
*Processed* – Requires Pesach Certification
- Ice:* Bags from plain water do not require Pesach Certification.
- Ices/Ice Cream:* Generally Require Pesach Certification. Some Edy's and Breyer's products are acceptable for Pesach use. Please consult Rabbi to discuss which flavors are acceptable.
- Juice:* *Frozen* - 100% pure orange concentrate (Ascorbic All other juices – including grapefruit - require certification as enzymes are used in processing) does not require special certification.  
*Liquid* - requires Pesach Certification. Trader Joe's Orange Juice and select other Trader Joe's juices do not require Pesach certification (please consult me if you are interested in purchasing). Tropicana Orange Juice requires Pesach certification.  
*Lemon/Lime* - ReaLemon brand is OK without special Pesach Certification. (Liquid only -not frozen)  
*Grape* –Please note that Kedem grape juice sold in the 1.5 liter glass bottles is not mevushal.
- Kitniyot:* Due to the stringency of not eating chametz on Pesach, Ashkenazic Jews have developed a custom not to eat Kitniyot (legumes) on Pesach. Kitniyot include alfalfa, anise, ascorbic acid (may actually contain chametz), aspartame (Nutrasweet) according to some, bean sprouts, beans, BHA, BHT, black eyed peas, buckwheat, calcium ascorbate, canola oil, caraway, chickpeas, citric acid (may actually be chametz), coriander, corn (according to some, it is a new world food, and therefore not kitniyot), corn oil (according to some), corn syrup (according to some), cumin, dextrose, dill seeds, edamame, fennel, fenugreek (according to some), flax seeds (according to some), guar gum, hemp, hydrolyzed vegetable oil, HVP, kasha, kimmel, lecithin, lentils, licorice, lucerne, lupine, maltodextrins (chametz or kitniyot derived), millet, MSG (according to some), mustard, peas, polysorbates (may actually be chametz), popcorn (according to some, *see corn*), poppy seeds, rice, sesame seeds, snow peas, sodium citrate (may actually be chametz), sodium erythorbate (may actually be chametz), sorbitol (could be chametz if outside the U.S.), sorghum, soy oil (according to some), soy, string beans, sunflower seeds, tofu (from soy), vetch, vetching, wild rice, xanthan gum (may actually be chametz). Many Kitniyot products on the market are certified as Kosher for Passover, especially those from Israel, France and other European countries. \*\*Also, this year, the Orthodox Union will have a full line of products *l'ochlei kitniyot* (for those who eat Kitniyot). Please consult with your Rabbi regarding any questions you may have.  
*Not Kitniyot* – Amaranth, dill leaves, fennel leaves, peanuts (though some have a custom to be stringent), corn (according to some, including me), pumpkin seeds, quinoa (see below), saffron (though some have a custom not to eat saffron for

other reasons). Some prohibit kitniyot derivatives, such as corn syrup (if you think corn is kitniyot in the first place), whereas other permit kitniyot derivatives (Rav Kook zt"l, others), especially if they are a minority ingredient and not recognizable.

*Lactaid:* See "milk"

*Laundry Detergent:* Does not require Pesach certification.

*Matzot:* *Egg Matzot* - Matzot made with fruit juice or eggs, which include "Kosher for Pesach" Egg Matzot, egg Matzah crackers, etc. may not be eaten on Pesach by healthy Ashkenazim. Even the sick and elderly cannot fulfill their obligation at the Seder with these matzot.

*Streit's Products* - All Streit's products made in the United States and Canada are under Kof-K certification regardless of whether the Kof-K symbol appears on the package.

*Grape Matzot* - sold by Manischewitz, have the same halachot as egg matzot. In addition, Manischewitz sells Passover Tam Tam crackers that are also made from egg flour dough and must be treated accordingly. Manischewitz also sells Tam Tam crackers made from flour and water that can be eaten by all. Matzah sticks (Kedem) and matzah crackers (Kedem and Manischewitz) are ordinary matzah products and can be eaten by all.

*Spelt & Oat*- Kosher for Passover hand and machine shemurah matzah are available at <http://www.lakewoodmatzoh.com>; they certify that certain varieties are gluten-free for those with gluten allergies. They can be purchased this year at many kosher supermarkets. Please note: It is questionable whether the obligation of eating matzah on the first night of Pesach can be fulfilled with oat matzah.

*Margarine:* Requires Pesach Certification.

*Meat:* *Fresh* - Does not require special Pesach Certification. Empire Turkey Burgers require special Pesach Certification.

*Frozen* - Does not require special Pesach Certification.

*Medicine:* *Non-Chewable Tablets, caplets, capsules or unflavored liquids* - can be assumed to be Kosher for Passover. This is true for vitamins as well. All major painkillers and non-liquid cold medications are okay. One need not check popular lists of medicines and toiletries to determine the Pesach status of each pill or capsule, as they are inedible and permitted by halacha.

*Chewable Tablets* - Require Pesach Certification. The following chewable tablets are not recommended for Pesach: Bayer chewable, Claritin (Children's Chewable), Gas-X tablets, Lactaid chewable, Pepto Bismol tablets. Most TUMS products are acceptable with the exception of Smoothie Cocoa.

*Flavored cold and cough syrups and elixirs* - must be checked. Advil Children's Liquid, Comtrex liquid, Orabase B Gel and Orajel, and some Triaminic products may contain chametz and should not be used. The following liquids are known to be acceptable: Anbesol, Delsym, DM, Tempra, Tylenol products and Vicks Nyquil and Dayquil Cold/Flu.

*Laxatives* - should be checked with the rabbi, as *many* are unacceptable. Powdered Metamucil contains kitniyot, but one who takes Metamucil may continue to do so on Pesach. Benefiber now contains Wheat Dextrin, which is chametz, although it didn't necessarily in years past, and should not be used on Pesach.

*Liquid Antacids* – Most flavored antacids require Pesach Certification. Kaopectate, Maalox & Pepto Bismol should not be used. However, Gaviscon & Mylanta are permitted.

*Flavored, Chewable Vitamins* – Require Pesach certification.

*Milk:* *Fresh* - Does not require Pesach Certification. Unflavored milk in the United States may be purchased on or before Pesach without special certification. Flavored milks require Pesach Certification.

*Lactaid* - Can be purchased on or before Pesach for those with Lactose intolerance. Both chewable and non-chewable lactaid pills are acceptable.

*Powdered-* Powdered milk is acceptable.

*Soy and Rice* – Are kitniyot, and should be used only by Ashkenazim who are ill. However, some brands contain actual chametz. The following brands do not contain actual chametz: Vitasoy San Sui Original Natural, Soy Dream Original un-enriched. These products may be purchased before Pesach for those who need them.

*Mouthwash:* All major brands, with the exception of Flourigard & Prevident Mouthrinse, are acceptable.

*Mushrooms:* *Raw* – Do not require Pesach Certification

*Canned* – Require Pesach Certification.

*Mustard:* Actual mustard is not permitted for Ashkenazim on Pesach because its seed grows like kitniyot. Rokeach produces substitute mustard that is certified for Pesach.

*Nail Polish Remover:* Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Nutritional supplements:* Many supplements contain kitniyot but may be consumed by the elderly or ill that need them. A few general guidelines: Unflavored products are preferable to flavored ones. Those with "artificial flavors" are preferable to those with "natural flavors". Liquid products are preferable to powdered ones. Those who need these products should see <http://oukosher.org/passover/guidelines/medicine-guidelines/nutritionals-and-dietary-supplements>. The following products should not be used: Jevity 1.2 or 1.5 with oat fiber, Promote with Fiber, Benefiber, or Ensure Fiber with FOS.

*Nuts:* Must be free of added preservatives and other additives. Products coated or sprayed with BHT or BHA should not be used on Pesach. Raw whole, chopped or ground nuts (e.g. walnuts, almonds, etc.) without added preservatives or other additives such as BHT or BHA are approved for Passover. Note: Midget Pecans & Pecan Pieces require Pesach Certification, as they are soaked in Chametz during processing. Peanuts are not kitniyot (Rav Moshe Feinstein), but some have the custom to refrain from eating peanuts.

*Oils:* Cottonseed oil, grapeseed oil, peanut oil and safflower oil may be used for Passover. Canola oil is considered kitniyot by some and is subject to debate. My

position (following Rav Kook zt"l) is that all kitniyot oils are permissible on Passover. Any brand of 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil may be used without certification.

*Oven Cleaner:* Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Paper Goods: Napkins:* Do not require Pesach Certification.

*Plastic* - Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Styrofoam* - Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Paper* – Does not require Pesach Certification.

*Parchment paper* – Does not require Pesach Certification according to most authorities (corn liquor used commercially to feed the microbial source of the citric acid used in the silicone coating is not problematic). Parchment paper certified by the Star-K for year-round use does not require special Pesach Certification according to all authorities.

*Biodegradable Plates* – Many have raised concerns, as they often use corn in the production of biodegradable and compostable plates; these concerns have no basis in Jewish law. Corn is, at worst, *kitniyot*, and therefore only possibly prohibited as a food, but not for benefit. Moreover, there is no discernable flavor of corn that enters from the plate. When using disposable plates, it is absolutely preferable to use more environmentally sustainable options, in the spirit of learning to be free and responsible human beings.

*Paper Towels:* May have starch-based glue at beginning and end. (Some say do not use first 3 and last sheets.) It is, however, totally acceptable to be lenient and use normally.

*Pet Food:* See section six below.

*Pumpkin:* Pumpkin and pumpkin seeds are not considered kitniyot. They may be used without special Pesach Certification if they are raw and without additives.

*Quinoa:* *Quinoa is permissible on Pesach, and is not considered kitniyot.* For 5778 the OU is certifying quinoa, canihua, kiwicha, and maca, which may all be used without further inspection as they are supervised under constant supervision by the Orthodox Union. The Star K is also certifying certain brands of quinoa for Passover. All other brands of unflavored quinoa are acceptable, though a sample of the quinoa should be inspected by hand before Pesach. One layer of quinoa should be spread on a board or plate and checked for any foreign matter.

*Pasta:* May be manufactured in the same machines as regular pasta and may not be used without Pesach Certification.

*Raisins:* Do not require Pesach certification.

*Rice:* May only be eaten by Sefardim. Carolina, Giant, Emperor, Mahatma, Riviana and Success are acceptable brands but they should be checked for other grains before using. (Interestingly, the Talmud records that rice based dishes were actually present on the Seder plate!)

*Rubber Bands:* Orthodontic rubber bands may be coated with powder. If so, they should be rinsed before Pesach.

*Rubber Gloves:* Permissible if not lined with powder.

*Rubbing Alcohol:* Any isopropyl or synthetic (acetyl-, lanolin-, benzyl- and methyl-) may be used.

- Salads:* Pre-Washed salads are kosher for Passover without special Pesach Certification. However, many contain kitniyot (such as peas), so one should check all of the salad ingredients.
- Salt:* Non-iodized, without dextrose, iodine or polysorbates, does not require Pesach Certification. Iodized salt is often processed with corn derivatives; it is acceptable for Passover according to many authorities, though some are stringent. Sea salt does not require Pesach Certification. No salt substitutes are available.
- Seltzer:* *Flavored:* Requires Pesach Certification. All flavors of Vintage Seltzer are acceptable.  
*Unflavored:* Does not require Pesach certification.
- Silver Polish:* Does not require Pesach certification.
- Soda:* *Coca-Cola:* Special Pesach certification not required (corn syrup is merely a derivative of kitniyot and is permissible when not the majority). However, special Pesach production is made with real sugar instead of corn syrup for those who are strict, and is noted by a yellow cap or the lid of the can. This includes Sprite, Diet Sprite and Seagram's Ginger Ale.  
*Pepsi Cola:* Same as Coca-Cola. Special Pesach production is also made with real sugar instead of corn syrup.
- Spices:* Require Pesach Certification. This includes cloves. Certain Lawry spices are acceptable without special Pesach certification (speak to Rabbi).
- Sugar:* *White* - All pure, granulated cane sugar without dextrose - does not require Pesach Certification.  
*Brown* - Requires Pesach Certification. Domino's Dark Brown Sugar, Light Brown Sugar, and Golden Light Brown Sugar are acceptable without special certification.  
*Confectioner's* - Requires Pesach Certification. Domino's Confectioner's Sugar is acceptable without special certification.  
*Substitute* - See *Artificial Sweeteners*.  
*Vanilla* - Requires Pesach Certification
- Tablecloths:* Should be washed and laundered, and then may be used on Pesach (even if the stains do not come out). The same is true for aprons, bibs, potholders, etc.
- Teas:* *Regular/Decaffeinated* - Does not require Pesach Certification. (Some authorities are concerned that ethyl acetate is sometimes used for decaffeination. While Ethyl acetate is produced from reactions using Ethanol, which can, in theory, be produced from wheat, this is an extremely uncommon source of Ethanol production in the U.S.; moreover, the Ethyl Acetate remains only in infinitesimal quantities in the final product in any event. This is why some suggest caution with decaffeinated teas and coffees).*Flavored* - The following are acceptable: Wissotzky teas with OUP, Swee-Touch-Nee Herbal Caffeine-free Seren-I-Tea with OUP, Good Earth with OUP, G'Day Herbal Teas with Star-K, and Wissotzky with OUP. Many flavors of Celestial Seasonings teas are also acceptable (speak with Rabbi).  
*Instant* - Nestea regular and decaffeinated without sweetener may be used without special Pesach Certification.

*Thickening Products:* See “Nutritional supplements” above

*Toiletries:* Toiletries which are inedible and not put in the mouth do not need Passover Certification. This includes deodorants, perfumes, shampoos and most cosmetics (see “cosmetics”).

*Toothpaste:* Does not need Pesach certification. Crest, however, is known to contain chametz and should be avoided if possible.

*Toothpicks:* Any wood or plastic (unflavored and uncoated) may be used.

*Vegetables:* *Frozen* - Requires Pesach Certification as many are packaged with gluten. Also, the same equipment may be used during the year to make pasta products. Bodek (OUP), Garden Pure (OUP), Meitav (OUP), B-Tam Star KP are some acceptable brands. Trader Joe’s brand of frozen vegetables are also acceptable.  
*Canned* – Does not require Pesach Certification. Ashkenazim should be careful to avoid kitniyot.

*Fresh uncut:* Does not need Pesach Certification, but should be rinsed before use

*Fresh cut and packaged* – See “salads”

*Vegetable Wash:* May contain kitniyot and requires Pesach Certification according to some

*Vinegar:* Requires Pesach Certification

*Vitamins:* See “medicines” (under “capsules”)

*Water:* Any fresh, bottled, spring or distilled water that is unflavored does not need Pesach Certification. Added fluoride or minerals do not present a problem. If there are added vitamins or flavors then Pesach Certification would be required.

*Water Filters:* Do not need special Passover Certification.

*Wax:* (including wax for braces) Does not require Pesach Certification

*Wine:* All Kosher wines are acceptable for Pesach. However, some may contain corn syrup (kitniyot), and many are strict. The most preferable Seder wines are red, not mevushal, and have no added water or sweeteners.

*Yogurt:* Needs Pesach Certification. However, many specific brands and flavors are acceptable (speak to Rabbi).

## 5) Pet Food

One of the many challenges of *Pesach* is finding permitted pet food. There are two separate *kashrut* issues to be aware of: the first relates specifically to *Pesach*; the other relates to the rest of the year.

a) Due to the prohibition of deriving any pleasure or benefit from *chametz*, we are not permitted to use or own pet food containing any type of *chametz* on *Pesach*. It is therefore important to be aware of the prevalent use of the five grains (wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt) in dog and cat foods today. Almost all dry pet food list wheat or oats as their first ingredient. This is true for fish food and bird food as well.

Benefit from "*Kitniyot*" (legumes) is permitted on Pesach even for Ashkenazim. Therefore, rice does not pose a problem in pet foods.

b) The year-round problem concerns meat and milk. Commonly, dog and cat foods that contain meat (not chicken) and milk together are rendered forbidden to Jewish pet owners all year round.

## 6) Kashering for Pesach

Traditionally, Jews were encouraged to "kasher" all of their dishes for Passover. In fact, the laws of "koshering" in the legal codes are to be found among the laws of Passover. The luxury of having multiple sets of dishes is of relatively recent origin and is not a necessary expense for the proper observance of Passover. Moreover, the use of environmentally problematic disposables should be generally discouraged, on Passover and at all other times.

*The Oven:* In a conventional oven, gas or electric, the oven must be clean before kashering can begin. Oven cleaner may be necessary to remove baked on grease. If a caustic type of oven cleaner (such as Easy-Off) was used to clean the oven and some stubborn spots remain, the spots may be disregarded. Once the oven and racks have been cleaned, they may be kashered by *libbun kal*. Turning the oven to the broil setting for forty (40) minutes satisfies the requirement of *libbun kal*. In a gas oven, the broil setting will allow the flame to burn continuously. In a conventional electric oven, the highest setting, broil or 550°F, renders the oven Kosher.

In a **continuous cleaning** oven, one should conduct a visual inspection to be sure the oven is clean. If it is clean, one may turn the oven to the broil setting for forty minutes in order to kasher it. If it is not clean, proceed as directed below.

Since caustic or abrasive oven cleaners, e.g. Easy-Off, cannot be used without destroying the continuous clean properties of the oven, a non-abrasive, and non-caustic, cleaner must be used to clean the oven in the unlikely event it is necessary. Grease spots will usually disappear if the top layer of grease is cleaned with Fantastic and a nylon brush. Then the oven should be turned on to 450°F for an hour so that the continuous clean mechanism can work. If the spots don't disappear, the oven should be left on for another hour to allow the continuous clean mechanism to deep clean. If the spots do not disappear, the spots may be disregarded. In all of the above cases the oven should then be kashered by turning the oven to the broil setting for forty minutes.

In a **self-cleaning** oven, the self-cleaning cycle will clean and kasher the oven simultaneously. This is also true for **convection** ovens with a self-cleaning feature. The oven need not be cleaned well before the process begins because everything inside of the oven is reduced to ash. The oven door and rubber around the door should, however, be clean before beginning the self-clean cycle.

*The Cooktop:* Any visible food should be removed. Some turn on the burners on both gas and electric ranges for a period of ten (10) minutes; in my opinion and according to my teachers, this is not strictly required as one does not cook food directly on the burner/cooktop.

The rest of the stovetop area should be cleaned and unused for 24 hours. Since the surface is not regularly used directly for cooking, no further kashering is required.

**The Broiler:** The broiler pan and grill cannot be kashered by just turning on the gas or electricity. Since food is cooked directly on the pan or grill, they must be heated to a glow in order to be used on Pesach. An alternate method is to replace the pan with a new pan and Kasher the empty broiler cavity by cleaning and setting it to broil for forty minutes. If one does not intend to use the broiler on Pesach, one may still use the oven, even without Kashering the broiler, provided that the broiler has been cleaned. Similarly, other cooktop inserts such as a griddle or a barbecue broiler would require "*libbun gamur*" - heating the surface to a red glow before usage. If not, the insert should be cleaned, covered, and not used for Pesach.

**Glass:** Since glass is not *bolea* ("does not absorb"), it can be used for Pesach as long as it is cleaned with soap and water. The same is true for Pyrex, or similar materials that do not absorb. According to many authorities (Rabbi Yitzhak Abadi, Rabbi Nahum Rabinovich, etc.), glazed china falls into this category as well, as the glaze is equivalent to a layer of glass that prevents absorption entirely; I agree with these opinions, though most are stringent.

**Microwave Ovens:** Clean the microwave and do not use for twenty-four (24) hours. Then boil a cup of water on high for 10 minutes in the microwave. The glass plate should be cleaned with soap and water to make sure there is no Chametz.

**Metal Utensils** that have been used for cooking or serving Chametz may be Kashered by cleaning them thoroughly, waiting twenty-four (24) hours, and then immersing them, one by one, into a pot of water which has been heated and maintains a rolling boil. If tongs are used to grip the utensil, the utensil will have to be immersed a second time, with the tong in a different position so that the boiling water will touch the initially gripped area. The entire utensil does not have to be kashered at once; it may be done in parts.

If an item is too large to be immersed in a pot, it may be Kashered by pouring boiling water over it instead of immersion. If this is done, care should be taken to make sure that water is poured over the entire item by the end of the process. If there is a large pot you wish to Kasher, you may also do so by cleaning the pot, waiting 24 hours, and filling the pot to the brim with water. Bring the water to a boil, and place an object in the pot so that the water will be caused to overflow.

There are two options when choosing a pot to Kasher vessels in. (1) A Pesach pot of any gender (meat or milk) that has not been used in twenty-four hours. (2) A non-Kosher-for-Pesach pot may also be used for the purpose of Kashering, provided that it is thoroughly clean and has not been used for twenty-four (24) hours.

**Sinks:** According to many authorities, sinks do not require Kashering as they are not regularly used to cook foods. According to this opinion, the sink should be thoroughly cleaned before Pesach.

According to other authorities, Kashering is recommended. Most sinks are made of metal, such as stainless steel, or granite. These sinks can be Kashered by the following method. Clean the sink thoroughly. Hot foods should not be poured into the sink for twenty-four (24) hours. Then, kashering is accomplished by pouring boiling hot water from a clean pot or kettle over the sink.

If the sink is made of glazed earthenware (e.g. porcelain), the sink is not *bolea*, and therefore Kashering is not required. However, the sink must be thoroughly cleaned to be sure that no edible food products remain.

**Blech/Plata:** A *blech* may be Kashered by cleaning any food, placing it over the burners, and turning the burners on high for approximately thirty minutes. A plata/warming plate may be Kashered by cleaning it, plugging it in, and leaving it on for approximately thirty minutes.

**Coffee Maker:** A coffee maker may be Kashered by making sure it is clean and leaving it unused for twenty-four (24) hours.

**Tea Kettle/Water Urn:** A tea kettle or water urn that has only been used for water in the last year may be used for Passover so long as it is clean and does not have any food on the inside or outside.

**Countertops:** Countertops need not be Kashered for Pesach, but must simply be cleaned thoroughly. However, some are strict and kasher countertops as well. To Kasher, clean the countertop well, and pour boiling water over the surface of the countertop after waiting twenty-four (24) hours without use.

Some have the custom to cover any countertops which have not been Kashered. This is not required, but is certainly a valid custom.

**Dishtowels/Aprons/Potholders:** These items should be placed in the laundry, if possible, and cleaned. Once they come out, they are acceptable for Pesach use, even if all of the stains have not come out entirely.

**Dishwashers:** It is my opinion that dishwashers do not require kashering, as all of the hot food in the dishwasher is considered “pagum” (rancid) because of the soap involved. However, many Rabbis are of the opinion that dishwashers require kashering. This can be done by simply running the dishwasher on an empty cycle. This is valid for all dishwashers, including those with plastic racks (there is a debate as to whether plastic can be koshered; those who rule leniently are the clear winners of this argument on the merits, in my view).

**Reminder:** Cleaning is important, but there is no need to cause strife, fighting, mental illness, marital discord, or anything else of the sort. Pesach is meant to be enjoyed and celebrated. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

**Spiritual Tip #1:** According to the mystical tradition, eliminating chametz represents our search to eliminate pride and arrogance (leavened product), and to return to our true selves in humility; this is the prerequisite for true freedom. May our elimination of chametz be as thorough spiritually as it is physically, and may we merit to see the fruit of our labor for good. If the main or only focus is on food, this won't happen. So forceful advocacy for a changed approach is necessary. Amen.

**Spiritual Tip #2:** Not all of the Passover commandments and customs center around food. Telling the story and experiencing freedom are the overarching aim. To this end, please do consider spending more time preparing for the seder experience than preparing the kitchen. What feel will your seder have? What tunes will you use? Who will be at your table? What supplementary readings might enhance the experience? What discussion questions will you ask? What learning styles will be utilized? Will participants be expected to do any "homework" and prepare anything in advance? Consider coming to the Rabbi's Shabbat HaGadol Derasha to get the conversation started.

**Spiritual Tip #3:** This year, look for fair trade chocolate and coffee for Passover. These products, in particular, are prone to actual slavery and highly abusive labor practices. Ignorance is not bliss if you're captured as a slave. Fox's Ubet has a fair trade certified line sold at Whole Foods. Equal Exchange has fair trade certified chocolate that is Kosher for Passover at many local supermarkets.

## **Have a Joyous & Sweet Passover!**