

ISSUE #2 CLEANING FOR PESACH

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Page 1 of 2

- 1. Why are we commanded to clean our homes and then perform a Bedika before Pesach?**
 - The Torah commands us to destroy all Chometz that is in our possession before the onset of Pesach. As such, we are required to search areas of the home where there is a likelihood that Chometz is present, in order to remove or destroy it before Yom Tov. To conduct a proper search, the house must have been cleaned thoroughly prior to the Bedika. Thus, the cleaning and the subsequent search are a prerequisite for the fulfillment of the Mitzvah of Tashbisu S'eor Mi'batechem, as well as preventing transgression of the prohibition of Ba'al Yiraeh and Ba'al Yimotzei.
- 2. Do small crumbs of possible Chometz pose a problem?**
 - Some have the custom to clean all areas of the home from even the smallest crumbs of Chometz. The following guidelines apply to one who does **not** have this Minhag:
 1. Crumbs located in an area that may potentially come into contact with Pesach food (i.e. on a table, countertop, refrigerator, freezer, or kitchen cabinet) must be thoroughly cleaned so that even the tiniest amount of Chometz will not come into contact with the Pesach food.
 2. In all other non-food areas of the home, anything smaller than the size of a Cheerio can be ignored, provided it is dirty or otherwise unfit for human consumption.
 3. Something larger than a Cheerio that cannot be removed must be sprayed with a caustic cleaner that renders it unfit for human consumption.
 4. Toys that are not likely to have Chometz crumbs larger than a Cheerio need not be cleaned. However, any area where it is conceivable that a child may have hidden Chometz must be cleaned and checked.
- 3. Must heavy appliances be moved out of their places when cleaning for Chometz?**
 - If the appliance is easily moved, one should do so. However, if the appliance is heavy enough that one would not typically move it to retrieve food which falls underneath, moving the appliance is not necessary. One should, however, clean around and under such appliances, as far as the hand can reach.

THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY RABBI AND MRS. AVROHOM KLEIN AND FAMILY

BAIS HORA AH OF DETROIT IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OFFERING A HALACHA HOTLINE WHICH PROVIDES A CONFIDENTIAL AND CONVENIENT WAY TO RECEIVE ANSWERS TO HALACHIC QUESTIONS. THE HOTLINE IS AVAILABLE FROM 10AM TO 10PM VIA PHONE, TEXT OR EMAIL. OUTSIDE THESE HOURS VOICEMAIL, TEXT AND EMAILS WILL BE ANSWERED IN A TIMELY MANNER. A DROP BOX IS AVAILABLE CONFIDENTIALLY 24 HOURS A DAY, 6 DAYS A WEEK WHICH IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY CAR OR FOOT. THE LOCATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF THE DROP-BOX ARE AVAILABLE AS A RECORDING ON THE HOTLINE (OPTION 3).

BAIS HORA AH OF DETROIT IS A 501(c)3 REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP CAN BE MADE VIA ZELLE OR PAYPAL AT DONATE@BHDDETROIT.ORG.

ISSUE #2 CLEANING FOR PESACH

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Page 2 of 2

4. Must one clean an area that will be "sold" to a non-Jew and not used over Pesach?

- No. Since cleaning is essentially a preparation for Bedikas Chometz, any area which is exempt from checking need not be cleaned. Similarly, rooms or closets into which one does not bring Chometz, generally do not require cleaning. However, if there is a chance that a child did bring Chometz there, the area still requires cleaning.

5. Do Seforim or books need to be cleaned?

1. Seforim or books that are exposed regularly to Chometz (i.e. Bentchers and cookbooks) are difficult to clean, and should simply be put away and included in the Chometz sale.
2. Books that are not exposed to Chometz at all need no checking.
3. Regarding books which may have been brought to the table or otherwise exposed to Chometz, the Halacha depends on how they will be used over Pesach:
 - a. If one wants to bring them to the table on Yom Tov, they must be cleaned extremely well. Some have the Minhag not to bring such Seforim or books to the table even after cleaning them.
 - b. If one wants to use them on Pesach but will not bring them to the table, they may simply be shaken out to release any crumbs.
 - c. If one does not plan to use them at all, any crumbs should be sold along with the Chometz

THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY RABBI AND MRS. AVROHOM KLEIN AND FAMILY

BAIS HORA AH OF DETROIT IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OFFERING A HALACHA HOTLINE WHICH PROVIDES A CONFIDENTIAL AND CONVENIENT WAY TO RECEIVE ANSWERS TO HALACHIC QUESTIONS. THE HOTLINE IS AVAILABLE FROM 10AM TO 10PM VIA PHONE, TEXT OR EMAIL. OUTSIDE THESE HOURS VOICEMAIL, TEXT AND EMAILS WILL BE ANSWERED IN A TIMELY MANNER. A DROP BOX IS AVAILABLE CONFIDENTIALLY 24 HOURS A DAY, 6 DAYS A WEEK WHICH IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY CAR OR FOOT. THE LOCATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF THE DROP-BOX ARE AVAILABLE AS A RECORDING ON THE HOTLINE (OPTION 3).

BAIS HORA AH OF DETROIT IS A 501(c)3 REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP CAN BE MADE VIA ZELLE OR PAYPAL AT DONATE@BHDDETROIT.ORG.