

בית הוראה דיעטראיט
BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher • Rav Yissachar Wolf • Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN • SHABBOS • YOM TOV • BRACHOS • AVEILUS • TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA • EVERYDAY SHAILOS

ISSUE #23 – Eggs FAQs

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Below are some common questions and answers based on psakim from the rabbonim of the Bais Horaah. Please note: in the event one believes they have heard a different opinion in the past, one's family posek should always be consulted. Mareh mekomos for any specific answers below are available by email request to ask@bhdetroit.org.

- **Can eggs be purchased without hashgocha?**
 - Commercially sold chicken eggs are acceptable without hashgocha. Eggs from other species such as duck or quale must only be purchased with reliable certification.
- **Can eggs be left out overnight?**
 - Eggs that have been removed from their shell but have not been mixed with any other ingredients should not be left out overnight. This is due to a concern of sakana (danger) which is mentioned in the gemora. This includes both raw and cooked eggs. However, if anything was added to the eggs (such as salt), it is not a problem. If the eggs were left out inadvertently, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **Is a carton of eggs muktzeh or can it be moved freely on Shabbos?**
 - Because eggs can be eaten raw, they are not considered muktzeh.
- **After taking eggs out of the cholent, may they be rinsed in cold water?**
 - It is permitted to place the eggs onto a plate (preferably not a bowl) and run a strong stream of cold water directly onto them. It is not permitted to put the eggs into a bowl of standing water, as the water may become cooked from the heat of the eggs.
- **Can one make a chopped egg salad on Shabbos?**
 - Ideally egg salad should be made before Shabbos. If that is not an option, it can be made on Shabbos under the following conditions:
 - The onions must be cut into larger pieces than normal.
 - The eggs should be peeled immediately before the seudah.
 - The mashing of the eggs should not be done with a tool designed specifically for this purpose.
 - Ideally the ingredients should be added in the opposite order than they would be during the week.
 - Additionally, the mixing should be done with a *shinui*, e.g. the fork should move in a criss-cross pattern, or it should be removed from the bowl and reinserted between each stroke.
- **My cleaning lady used my frying pan to make scrambled eggs without permission. What is the status of the frying pan?**
 - Even if all the ingredients were kosher, the eggs may not be eaten, and the frying pan would need to be kashered due to the prohibition of Bishul Akum. A halachic authority should be consulted as to whether the pan can be kashered, and for the correct procedure in doing so.
 - Please note: Having cleaning help in the kitchen must be approached with great caution. The individual may not be left in the kitchen unsupervised and must be given clear instructions that all utensils and appliances are off-limits.
- **If a red blood spot is found on an egg, what must be done with the egg?**
 - Even though there is no concern of fertilization in commercially produced eggs, it is still forbidden to consume the bloodspot. The common minhag in America is to discard the entire egg. If the affected egg was already mixed in with other eggs, one should remove the entire yolk from that egg if possible. If it is not possible to do so, the bloodspot should be removed. If the bloodspot can no longer be found, the mixture may still be used.
- **What if the egg was already fried before the blood spot was found?**
 - The eggs should not be eaten. The pan should be cleaned well, and not be used for 24 hours. In a case of need there is room to be lenient to eat the eggs after removing the blood spot and surrounding area. If there is a need to use the pan, there is room to be lenient to use it right away after cleaning.

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- **Can a child under Bar/Bas Mitzvah check eggs for bloodspots?**
 - Yes, assuming the child is mature enough to perform this task. Commercially available eggs are not fertilized, and therefore a mature child may be relied upon in this case. Please note: Checking produce for insects requires one who is over the age of Bar/Bas Mitzvah, is Torah observant, and has the expertise and training to identify and thoroughly check the specific type of produce at hand.
- **Are the brown spots which are commonly found in brown eggs considered bloodspots?**
 - The brown spots found in brown eggs are protein spots and may be consumed since they are not blood.
- **When cooking eggs, must one cook a minimum of three eggs in the pot?**
 - In years past, many had the custom to only cook a minimum of three eggs in a pot. This was done so that in the event one of them turned out to be fertilized, it would be nullified by the majority created by the other two eggs. This custom is relevant only when the eggs are potentially fertilized. When cooking commercially available eggs, which have no possibility of fertilization, one may cook less than three eggs at a time.
- **Currently the price of eggs fluctuates greatly, is it still permitted to borrow and return eggs?**
 - Because the price of eggs fluctuates daily, according to many poskim there is a concern of ribbis (lending with interest) in lending and borrowing eggs. The best approach is to state that the eggs are being given as a gift. The recipient can in turn give a gift of eggs or cash if they choose, however they are not required to do so. If one is not willing to give the eggs as a gift, a halachic authority should be consulted for the best approach.
- **I borrowed a dozen large eggs. May I return extra-large eggs?**
 - The best option is to give the eggs as a gift as outlined in the previous question. If that was done, there would be no issue in gifting differently sized eggs.
 - If this arrangement was not made, one should try to return eggs of the same size. If it is difficult to do so, one can rely on the fact that close friends/family are generally not makpid on egg sizes, and the extra value is considered a gift unrelated to the loan.
- **If one of the borrowed eggs had a blood spot, is it forbidden to return a new egg?**
 - In general, returning something more valuable than that which was borrowed would be a violation of ribbis. However, due to several halachic considerations, there is no ribbis concern in this specific case.
- **Must eggs be purchased before Pesach?**
 - The common minhag is to only purchase eggs which have been laid before Pesach. Frum-owned grocery stores often purchase all of their eggs prior to Pesach so that consumers can purchase eggs on Chol Hamoed without concern. Eggs should not be purchased from stores which may have eggs that were laid on Pesach.
- **Must eggs be washed before Pesach?**
 - There is a minhag to wash eggs prior to Pesach. However, one who does not have this minhag need not be concerned.
- **If one forgot to roast an egg prior to Pesach, may it be roasted on yom tov?**
 - The egg may be roasted on yom tov, however one must plan to eat it either at the Seder or on the following day in order to avoid the prohibition of preparing food on one day for another.
- **May the roasted egg on the Seder plate be eaten at the seder?**
 - The minhag of not eating roasted foods on Pesach is only relevant to meat and chicken.
 - Please note: for these purposes, meat or chicken that was prepared with a significant amount of liquid is not considered roasted and is permitted.

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