

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 #3 BEDIKAS CHOMETZ

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

- **If my house was cleaned thoroughly, must I still do bedikas chometz?**
  - Yes. Preparing the home for Pesach is a three-part process:
    - a. Cleaning, to remove all chometz from the home.
    - b. Bedikas chometz, checking to ensure that the cleaning was effective and no chometz remains.
    - c. Biur chometz, ridding of any chometz that was found or left over.
- **I will not be home the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, when should bedika be performed?**
  - If one is leaving home within the 30 days prior to Pesach, he should be bodek on the last night that he will be home. This bedikas chometz differs from the bedika of one who will be staying home in the following ways:
    - a. No brocho is recited.
    - b. One does not put out the customary ten pieces of chometz.
    - c. After this bedika, one recites the following version of Kol Chamira:  
כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא בבית הדין דלא חזתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה לבטל ולהווי הפקר כעפרא דארעא
- **Must one use a candle for Bedikas Chometz?**
  - One should ideally make the brocho and begin the checking with a wax candle. Many will subsequently switch to a flashlight, which can be maneuvered into small areas more safely. One who cannot start checking with a candle may make the brocho while using a flashlight.
- **Must one turn off the lights in the room being checked?**
  - No. Although we perform the bedika at night, the lights need not be turned off.
- **If I will be away for the whole Yom Tov, can I sell the entire house as part of my mechiras chometz and not do any bedika at all?**
  - In order to fulfill the mitzva of bedikas chometz, one should choose a room into which chometz is typically brought, and not include that room in the sale. A bedika is then performed on that room.
- **Can I sell my house but allow my neighbor to use it for their Yom Tov Guests?**
  - No. An area that is sold to a non-Jew should not be used at all over Pesach. If one will be hosting guests over Pesach, any areas used by the guests must be cleaned and checked, and not sold as part of the mechiras chometz.
- **Where does one need to check?**
  - Any accessible area which is not being sold, and into which chometz is brought, must be checked. This includes:
    - **Kitchen:** Despite having been cleaned thoroughly and kashered, the kitchen still requires at least a basic bedika. If one finds it difficult to perform this bedika on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, it may be done after the cleaning, prior to using it for Pesach food.
    - **Pesach Kitchen:** A designated Pesach kitchen into which one does not bring chometz at any point during the year, need not be checked.

**Please note: One should be sure to recheck all products purchased for Pesach to ensure their kosher-for-Pesach status.**

- **Cars:** Must be checked thoroughly. One should be sure to clean and check all areas up until the depth that the hand can reach. This includes in between and under the cushions and seats, the glove compartment, and the trunk. In the event it is too difficult to check the car on the night of bedikas chometz, the car may be checked immediately after it is cleaned- even during the daytime, and even prior to the 14th of Nissan. This is provided that he will be careful not to bring any chometz into the car after the cleaning and checking.

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- **Clothing:** All clothing pockets, including summer and winter coats, should be checked. A flashlight need not be used; one may instead feel for chometz by hand. If the clothing was recently washed with detergent, it is sufficient to feel the outside of the pockets to ascertain that there are no large pieces of chometz inside. Small crumbs do not pose a problem.
- **Childrens backpacks:** Should be cleaned and checked. Care should be taken to check all pockets. Alternatively, they may be put away and sold with the chometz.
- **Guests or a couple staying by their parents/children:** Guests who arrive before the night of bedikas chometz, and who have been assigned a private room over Yom Tov, should perform a kinyan on the room before nightfall. They may then perform bedikas chometz with a brocho in that room, provided that it is a room into which chometz is brought during the year. This kinyan can be made by renting the room from the owner for one dollar.
- **Pesach Hotel or AirBnB:**
  - a. If one is in a hotel on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>, he should perform bedikas chometz with a brocho.
  - b. If one arrives at the hotel on the day of erev yom tov, bedika with a brocho is still required. If it can be ascertained that the hotel arranged for a yid to perform bedika prior to guest arrival, and no chometz has been brought into the room, bedika is not required.
  - c. If one arrives on chol hamoed, bedika must still be done (unless he knows that a bedika was previously done in the room).
- **Rental Cars:** One who rents a car on chol hamoed should perform bedikas chometz on the vehicle.
- **Dorm Rooms:**
  - a. One who resides in a dorm throughout the year but will be leaving for Pesach must check any areas designated to him (i.e. drawers, cabinets, etc.). The bedika should be done the last night that he will be there; no brocho is recited.
  - b. One who will be remaining in a dorm room over Pesach (and who normally brings chometz into the areas designated to him) may do bedikas chometz in those areas on bedikas chometz night. No brocho is recited.
- **Office:**
  - a. A business owner must either sell the premises (if they won't be used over Yom Tov), or check it.
  - b. An employee should check the areas designated to him, such as his desk and drawers. If he normally stores chometz in a shared area, such as a refrigerator or freezer, that area should be checked as well. Since the premises do not belong to the employee, it is sufficient to check immediately after the cleaning, even during the daytime prior to the 14th of Nissan.
  - c. One who rents access to a cubicle/workspace on a day-to-day basis, but is not assigned to a specific desk or work space, need not perform bedikas chometz
- **Shul Shtender:** Must be checked, unless one is careful not to put food inside.

*For more information regarding the reason for Bedikas chometz and what to look for, please reference the previous article, Part 1 Cleaning for Pesach.*

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