

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 #33 – Eruv Tavshilin 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.

- **When is an Eruv Tavshilin needed, and what does it allow?**
 - An Eruv Tavshilin is required when Yom Tov **falls on Friday**. It permits **cooking** and making **other** preparations for Shabbos on Yom Tov—such as lighting Shabbos candles or carrying items needed for Shabbos. Without an Eruv Tavshilin, these preparations would **not** be permitted. These FAQs will explain **how** and **when** to make an Eruv, when the Shabbos **preparations** may be done, and what to do if a **mistake** occurs.
- **What is the correct procedure for making an Eruv Tavshilin?**
 - **One** person in the household who is over bar or bas mitzvah should perform the procedure on behalf of the family.
 - Set aside a **cooked** item and a **baked** item (see below for the required types and sizes) that will be eaten on Shabbos. Pick them up, recite the bracha, and then say the text of the Eruv. One must understand the words being recited; if the Aramaic is not understood, it may be said in English.
- **When should the Eruv Tavshilin be made?**
 - The earliest time to make an Eruv Tavshilin is the **morning** of Erev Yom Tov. It can be made anytime during the day until sunset. If for some reason it was made **before** sunrise of Erev Yom Tov, the procedure should be repeated without a bracha.
- **Can guests or married children staying with their parents or in-laws rely on their host's Eruv Tavshilin?**
 - Ideally, one of the guests should **pick up** the Eruv foods and **acquire a share** on behalf of all the guests. However, if this was not done, they may rely on the homeowner's Eruv **as is**.
 - If someone will be sleeping at home but **eating all meals elsewhere**, they should make an **Eruv without a bracha**, since they will not be cooking.
- **Can the Eruv from the first days be used for the second days of Yom Tov if one of the second days also falls on Friday?**
 - No. A **separate** Eruv should be made for the second days. However, if one **forgot** to make it, they **may** rely on the Eruv from the first days provided the foods from that Eruv are **still available**.
- **What foods should be used to make an Eruv Tavshilin?**
 - An Eruv Tavshilin should include both a **cooked item** and a **baked item**. If for some reason only a cooked item was used, the Eruv is still valid. If **only** a baked item is used, the Eruv is not valid. A Halachic Authority should be consulted.
 - Ideally, the cooked item should be **meat** or **fish**. If those are not available, one may use any cooked item commonly served as the **main filling** of a sandwich, such as hard-boiled eggs. In fact, many have the minhag to **specifically** use a hard-boiled egg. Other cooked foods, such as potatoes, noodles, rice, or cooked vegetables, are **not** sufficient for an Eruv Tavshilin.
- **What amount of each food must be used for the Eruv Tavshilin?**
 - The **cooked item** should be at least a **k'zayis**—about the amount that fills a 1-ounce shot glass.
 - The **baked item** should be at least a **k'beitza**—about the amount that fills a 2-ounce shot glass.
 - It is a **hiddur mitzvah** to use a **whole baked item** and a complete portion of the **cooked food**.
- **If one does not plan to cook on Yom Tov for Shabbos, should an Eruv Tavshilin still be made?**
 - Yes. The preferred option is to perform some cooking action on Yom Tov for Shabbos, such as **heating water** to be used on Shabbos, for example warming water on the stove to add to the urn.
 - If that is not an option, one should **still make** an Eruv, but **without** a bracha.

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- **Must the Eruv food have been cooked with Shabbos in mind?**
 - Preferably, yes. However, even if the food was **not specifically** prepared for Shabbos, it may still be used by designating it now to be eaten on Shabbos.
- **Must the Eruv Tavshilin be eaten on Shabbos?**
 - The foods should be eaten at some point **on Shabbos**. There is a hiddur to use the baked item for **Lechem Mishnah** at all three seudos and eat it at **Shalosh Seudos**. However, even if one did not eat the eruv foods at all, the Eruv **is still valid**.
- **What happens if the Eruv Tavshilin is accidentally eaten on the first day of Yom Tov?**
 - It is important to mark the Eruv foods and keep them in a **designated place** so they are not accidentally eaten during Yom Tov.
 - If the **cooked item** was partially eaten, as long as about **1 ounce (k'zayis)** remains, the Eruv is still valid. If the cooked item is **completely eaten or lost before Shabbos**, the Eruv is no longer valid, and a **Halachic authority** should be consulted.
 - If the **baked item** was eaten or lost, the Eruv **remains valid**.
- **When may the cooking for Shabbos be done?**
 - Cooking for Shabbos may begin after tzais hakochavim on **Thursday**. It may **not** be done during the **daytime** on Thursday.
 - The cooking should **conclude** in the early afternoon. The food should be cooked for at least **one-third** of the normal cooking time before the onset of Shabbos. This differs from a **normal** Shabbos, where raw food may be placed on a blech shortly before Shabbos. In cases of need where the food was **not** one-third cooked before Shabbos, there is room to be lenient.
 - **Note:** Halachos for using an oven on Shabbos and Yom Tov are available in **FAQs #16**: <https://bhdetroit.org/faq/16>.
- **If one realizes on Yom Tov that he did not make an Eruv Tavshilin, what should be done?**
 - If the mistake is noticed after **shkiyah** but before **tzais hakochavim**, and **Maariv** has not yet been recited, the Eruv can still be made **with** a bracha.
 - If the first day of Yom Tov is Thursday and the mistake is noticed **after** tzais hakochavim, or if Maariv has **already** been recited, the Eruv can still be made through the first day of Yom Tov until **tzais hakochavim** with the following modifications: Declare: "If today is Yom Tov, I don't need an Eruv and if today is really chol, I am making an Eruv..." Then recite the Eruv text without a bracha. This solution does not work on Rosh Hashana.
 - If the first day of Yom Tov is Friday or the mistake is not noticed until the **second day of Yom Tov**, a Halachic authority must be consulted.
- **If one held the foods and made a bracha on the Eruv but did not say the Eruv text, is the Eruv still valid?**
 - If the text of "Bahadaein Eruva..." (or its equivalent in another language) was not recited, it is **questionable** whether the Eruv is valid and the situation should be treated as described in the **previous answer**.

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