

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 #34 – Yom Tov FAQs

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.

- **Are the halachos of Yom Tov different than Shabbos?**
 - The halachos of melacha on Yom Tov are generally the same as Shabbos, with three main areas of exception: **food preparation, carrying, and lighting from an existing flame**. Below are a sampling of questions in each of these areas.
- **Is it permitted to take food out of the freezer on the first day of Yom Tov for use on the second day?**
 - If the second day is **Shabbos**, preparations are permitted provided an eruv tavshilin was made. See FAQs #33- Eruv Tavshilin for full details.
 - Otherwise, ideally one should plan ahead by storing the frozen food in a bag that also contains something **needed for that day**. If this was not done, there is room to be lenient and take the frozen food out **early in the day**.
- **May I heat up or cook food during the day for the night meal?**
 - Similar to the previous question, if the second day is Shabbos, preparations are permitted provided an eruv tavshilin was made. See FAQs #33- Eruv Tavshilin for full details.
 - Otherwise, cooking or heating-up food for the second night or second day is not permitted on the first day **until tzais**. Tzais is the same number of minutes after sunset that one **normally waits** for Motzai Shabbos.
 - However, it is permitted to cook or warm an **entire pan of food** intended for that day, even if there will be **leftovers** for the night meal, since the food is all placed on the fire **together**.
 - This does not apply where **individual pieces** are cooked separately, such as frying schnitzel. In such cases, one should cook only what is **needed** for that day.
- **Can one use hot water from the faucet on Yom Tov?**
 - Unlike on Shabbos, the hot water system **may** be used on Yom Tov. This applies only to a standard hot water tank. A **tankless** system may not be used. Regarding **showering**, a Halachic Authority must be consulted.
- **May one carry a machzor or lulav home on Yom Tov?**
 - Yes, if it will be **used** that day, or if there is concern of damage or theft. It is important to note that carrying **without** an eruv on Yom Tov is **only permitted** for a same-day need.
- **May I have non-Jewish cleaning help on Yom Tov?**
 - Yes, provided the following guidelines are followed:
 - Payment should ideally be arranged **before** or **after** Yom Tov. If that is not possible, money may be left for them to take **on their own**.
 - They may only perform tasks that a **Jew is permitted** to do. However, they may choose **on their own** to do these tasks even in a way that is prohibited for a Jew. For example, you may ask them to wash dishes even though they will likely decide on their own to use a sponge.
 - They may not use appliances, such as a **dishwasher** or **vacuum cleaner**, even if they choose to use them on their own.
 - They may not do any prohibited tasks **specifically for you** such as turning lights on or off, shopping, or **checking the news**.
 - It is important to **clearly instruct** them about these restrictions so that they do not follow their **usual weekday routine**.
 - Because the permitted scope of their work is limited, it may be better to schedule cleaning **before or after** Yom Tov. Due to the **complexity** of these halachos, it is advisable to consult a Halachic Authority beforehand.
- **May a hand grater be used on Yom Tov?**
 - Yes, but in an abnormal manner. For example, the grated food should fall onto a **napkin** or the grater should be used **upside down**.
- **May salt and pepper shakers with a built-in grinder be used on Yom Tov?**
 - A standalone spice grinder may not be used on Yom Tov. However, the consensus of the poskim is that a grinder built-into the shaker may be used in an abnormal manner. For example, one should grind onto a napkin and not **directly onto the food or one's hand**.

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- **May a ben chutz l'aretz visiting Eretz Yisroel ask a ben Eretz Yisroel to do something on the second day of Yom Tov (when it is not Shabbos) that is forbidden for him?**
 - No. He may not be asked to perform an action that is prohibited for the ben chutz l'aretz. However in this specific case, if he does it on his own, the ben chutz l'aretz may benefit from it.
- **May a ben Eretz Yisroel visiting chutz l'aretz do melacha on the second day of Yom Tov?**
 - No. The consensus of the poskim is that while staying in a community that keeps two days of Yom Tov, one **may not do melacha**, whether d'rabonon or d'oraysa, even in private. It is advisable to consult a Halachic Authority **before** Yom Tov in this situation.
- **May a wasp, bee, mosquito, or other stinging or biting insect be trapped or killed on Yom Tov?**
 - Generally, they may not be **killed**. However, they may be **trapped** if there is concern about being stung or bitten. In cases of severe **danger**, such as a severe allergy, they may be killed.
- **May pets be fed on Yom Tov?**
 - A person may feed pets that **depend** on him for food, but may not feed **stray** animals on Yom Tov. Pets are also **muktzah** and may not be handled. In general, **many halachic questions** can arise regarding pets. A Halachic Authority should be consulted.
- **May neronim discs or leftover wax be removed from candlesticks on Yom Tov?**
 - Although they may be muktzah, it is permitted to use a **utensil** to transfer them directly into the garbage in preparation for lighting candles.
- **Is it permitted to measure ingredients on Yom Tov?**
 - In general, ingredients should not be measured **precisely**. Rather, **approximate** amounts should be used. However, if the recipe would be **ruined** without an exact measurement, precise measuring is **permitted**.
- **Is it permitted to use a vegetable peeler on Yom Tov?**
 - Yes, if the fruit or vegetable will be used on the **same day**.
- **Is it permitted to open a soda can or bottle on Yom Tov?**
 - Yes, if the person prefers **maximum carbonation** and opening the bottle before Yom Tov would reduce it. This applies even to those who are **generally stringent** on Shabbos. Note: If lettering will be broken, it is not permitted.
- **Is it permitted to use a whipped cream spray can?**
 - Yes, as long as **no letters** or **pictures** are formed.
- **May a cake with writing or pictures be cut on Yom Tov?**
 - One may cut **around** or **between** letters or pictures on a cake, but not through them. However, this only applies to writing or images drawn **on the surface of the food**. Foods **shaped** like a letter or picture **may** be cut on Yom Tov, but may not be formed in that shape **on Yom Tov**.
- **May Yizkor candles be lit on Yom Tov?**
 - Ideally, one should light a 2-day candle **before** Yom Tov. If this was not done, a candle may be lit from an **existing** flame in a dark room where the light is **needed**. Lighting a **new** flame is not permitted under any circumstances.
- **May one invite non-Jews to a Yom Tov meal?**
 - Generally, this is **not** permitted. For specific situations, such as potential **converts**, a Halachic Authority should be consulted **before** Yom Tov. Additionally, one may not heat up food **specifically** for non-Jewish help, however **leftovers** may be given to them.

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