

בית הוראה דיעטראיט  
**BAIS HORA AH 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 #7 - THREE WEEKS FAQs

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

- **May one schedule a medical procedure during the 3 weeks?**
  - If possible, one should avoid scheduling such a procedure during the 3 weeks. After Rosh Chodesh Av we are even more stringent, and a procedure should be scheduled only in a case of great need.
- **Is it permitted to purchase or wear new clothing during the 3 weeks?**
  - Prior to Rosh Chodesh:
    - Clothing may be purchased, however significant articles of clothing that require a shehechyanu (such as a suit, fancy dress or sheitel) may not be worn for the first time. In a case of need, the new item may be worn for the first time on Shabbos.
    - After Rosh Chodesh Av, one may not purchase any type of clothing, even if it will not be worn until after Tisha b'Av.
- **May one purchase furniture or a car during this time period?**
  - Prior to Rosh Chodesh:
    - Expensive items which are purchased infrequently (i.e. furniture or a car) may only be purchased in a case of need. If more than one person will benefit from using the item, for example a family car or family couch, it may be used for the first time during this period. This is because the correct bracha on such items is Hatov Ve'hameitiv, which is permitted to be said during the 3 weeks.
  - After Rosh Chodesh:
    - Expensive items may not be purchased. In a case in which a substantial financial loss will be incurred by delaying the purchase, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **May one launder clothing during the 9 days for use after Tisha b'Av?**
  - During the 9 days, it is prohibited to wear freshly laundered clothing. Furthermore, it is not permitted to launder clothing that won't be worn until after Tisha b'Av. Laundered clothing should be worn for at least a few minutes prior to the onset of the 9 days to remove its freshness.
- **Is it permitted to mow the lawn or perform other gardening tasks during the 3 weeks?**
  - It is permitted to garden and mow the lawn until Rosh Chodesh Av. After Rosh Chodesh Av, even mowing is not permitted. However, if one's lawn is very overgrown, there is room to be lenient.
- **Is it permitted to cut one's fingernails during the 9 days?**
  - Cutting nails is permitted until the week in which Tisha b'Av falls (shavua shechal bo). It is also permitted to cut one's nails for shabbos and for other mitzvah purposes even during shavua shechal bo.
- **Is it permitted to have painting or carpeting done in one's home during the 3 weeks?**
  - Decorating projects, such as painting or carpeting, are permitted only until Rosh Chodesh Av. If one started a project with a non-Jewish contractor prior to Rosh Chodesh, and pausing the project will create hardship, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **Are children allowed to run through a sprinkler during the 9 days?**
  - This is permitted for children under 6 years old.
- **Are swimming lessons or swim exercise permitted during the 9 days?**
  - Both of these activities should be avoided during the 9 days.
- **Is listening to music or getting a haircut permitted during the 3 weeks?**
  - In general, listening to music & getting haircuts are not permitted. For more details regarding these halachos you may refer to Minhagei Sefira- FAQ #4. Email [subscribe@bhdetroit.org](mailto:subscribe@bhdetroit.org) to receive back copies.
- **May one have a sheitel washed and set during the 9 days?**
  - It is not permitted to have a sheitel washed and set during the 9 days because it is equivalent to laundering a garment.

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- **May one mend clothing that is not new during the 9 days, e.g. sew on a button, fix a hem, repair a tear, or patch a hole?**
  - Mending may be done during the 9 days to repair clothing that is not new.
- **Is it permitted to knit, crochet, or do needlepoint during the 9 days?**
  - These activities are not permissible during the 9 days because they fall into the category of sewing new garments.
- **May one drink grape juice during the 9 days (aside from kiddush & havdalah)?**
  - No. Grape juice has the same halachic status as wine.
- **May one eat food which contains a small amount of wine or grape juice as an ingredient?**
  - There is room to be lenient if the taste of the wine or grape juice is not prominent. Please note: grape juice ices are not permitted.
- **Until what age may children eat fleishigs or drink grape juice during the 9 days?**
  - In general, children should refrain from these items from the age of three. However, in a case of need, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **May one serve fleishig food on Erev Shabbos to children over the age of two?**
  - If this is how they usually eat their "Shabbos seudah," and they will not eat at the actual Shabbos seudah later (i.e. they will go to sleep prior), young children may eat fleishigs even though it is not yet Shabbos.
- **Is it permitted to launder children's clothing during the 9 days?**
  - If clothing is needed for children during the 9 days, it is permitted to wash only what is actually needed for use during the 9 days. During shavua shechal bo this applies only to children whose clothing constantly gets dirty and who cannot use the same items more than once.
- **May one drop off clothes at the dry cleaners during the nine days?**
  - Clothing may not be dropped off during the 9 days, even to a non-Jewish cleaners. Clothing may be dropped off prior to the 9 days and picked up after Tisha b'Av.
- **When is the last permissible time to do laundry before Rosh Chodesh?**
  - As long as the wash cycle was started before shkiah of Erev Rosh Chodesh, this year it will be Tuesday 7/18, it is permitted to leave the cycle running. You may then put the clothes in the dryer when the wash cycle is complete, even though it is already Rosh Chodesh.
- **Is it permitted to iron clothing during the 9 days?**
  - No. Ironing is not permitted.
- **May we drink the havdalah wine or grape juice on Motzaei Shabbos Chazon?**
  - There is a minhag to give the wine or grape juice to a child who is of the exact age at which he or she makes berachos but does not yet understand the aveilus of Yerushalayim. In practice, however, it is often very difficult to find a child who is precisely of that age, and who will be awake for Havdalah. Therefore, the common custom is to drink the havdalah wine as usual.
- **May laundry be done on Motzaei Tisha b'Av when the fast falls out on Thursday?**
  - In general, laundry and all other 9 days prohibitions are only permitted after chatzos on the following day. However, when Tisha b'Av falls on Thursday, it is permitted to wash clothing on Thursday night if one needs the laundry for Shabbos.
- **When may haircuts and showers be taken?**
  - This year, since Tisha b'Av falls on Thursday, haircuts and showers may be taken as early as Friday morning.
- **When are meat, wine, music, and freshly laundered clothing permitted?**
  - These are not permitted until chatzos on Friday.

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