



KOF-K

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בס"ד

Piskei Halachos of Horav Yisroel Belsky Shlita On Hilchos Pesach

Pesach Cleaning

One should appreciate how much effort his wife puts into the *Pesach* cleaning. One should help out in the house as much as possible. The *Gemorah* in *Bava Metziah* (32a-b) says if you see your friend with a heavy load you should help him out. All the more so when your wife is cleaning for *Pesach* and needs your help.

Bedikas Chometz

Anything that one has in his possessions requires *bedika*. The night of the fourteenth was reserved for one's home. Your office can be checked before the fourteenth. It is not practical for one to take his car to the office the night of the fourteenth. The car should be checked when it is most convenient for you.

There is no reason why anyone who is healthy and not infirm, should be exempt from cleaning his house properly, and doing the required *bedika*, even if you are going away for *Yom Tov*. There is no need to wash out the pots etc, and there is no need to cover the sinks. One should not look for loopholes regarding this. There is no need to burn the feather and the spoon with the *chometz* the next morning. If people consider it a *minhag* then one should do like his *minhag*.

Ovens

If one has a self cleaning oven then it should be put on a full cycle and that would *kasher* it. One may place the grates of the oven in the oven while *kashering*, and this will provide the necessary *kashering* to the grates. Another method of *kashering* the burners would be to place a *blech* on the burners and leave the fire on for about five minutes. There is no need for placing a piece of silver foil on the inside of the oven door. The food particles that might have gotten stuck there have no affect on any food cooked later on.

Sinks

The best *eitzah* as to how one should make his sink *kosher* for *Pesach* is to put in an insert. Using a stone with boiling hot water is rather difficult, and one who is an expert in using it may *kasher* the sink with it if the walls of the sink are stainless steel.



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Counters

Although there are many ways on how to *kasher* countertops, the best way is to put contact paper on the counter.

One should try to get rid of as much *chometz* as possible before *Pesach*, and not rely on selling it to a goy, unless you are in business and have to hold onto it. The products that are only mixtures of *chometz* should be locked up in the medicine cabinet for the duration of *Pesach*, and sold together with the rest of the *chometz*.

Products

Diet Coke- One is permitted to drink Diet Coke on *Pesach*. Granulated Sugar- This sugar does not need a *hechsher* for *Pesach*, but since today there are many that have a *hechsher* one should buy the one with a *hechsher*. Chocolate- One needs to buy chocolate with a *hechsher* for *Pesach*. Regular Orange Juice – Orange juice goes through pasteurization that is normally done on hot utensils, therefore, one should buy orange juice with a *hechsher*. Dishwashing Soap- One should only purchase dishwashing soap with a *hechsher*. Baby Cereal – Baby rice cereal contains many flakes of barley that are left over from the equipment, since it is not possible to clean out the equipment properly. Therefore, this cereal may not be used for *Pesach*. Baby Formula – Even baby formula that contains soybeans may contain a small amount of *chometz* in the form of vitamins but is *butel* many times over. Nonetheless, if one can he should purchase the formula from *Eretz Yisroel* for *Pesach*. If the child cannot handle this formula then one can be lenient. Mushrooms – there is no concern regarding the usage of mushrooms for *Pesach*. Paper Towels – there is no starch problem with paper towels, and one may place food directly on the paper towels. There is no *chumrah*, *issur*, or *minhag* to prevent a drop of *kitniyos* from falling into food. The *Shulchan Aruch* (453:1) says one can use a lamp filled with oil from *kitniyos* even though it's certain that some of the *kitniyos* will be sprayed into the food. In the case of the paper towels, there is no certainty at all of any leaching into the food. No one has ever confirmed even a leaching of a molecule of starch from the paper towel into the food. The *kitniyos* starch is so firmly bonded to the paper towel that an iodine test won't reveal its presence. Spices- In order to prevent the spices from sticking together an anti-caking agent is put in. All year-round cornstarch is used for this purpose, on *Pesach* potato starch is used, therefore, one should purchase spices that have a *hechsher* for *Pesach*. Lump Charcoal – one is permitted to use lump charcoal for a barbeque during *Pesach* since it is just burnt wood. The regular charcoals may not be used, since the ashes that make up the charcoal are stuck together with glue that might be *chometz*.



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Deodorant – Some say that liquid deodorant is *nifsol meachilas kelev* and may be kept in one's house on *Pesach*. Thus far no one has demonstrated that this is so. No test as to whether this substance is potable has been conducted. Others argue that this is similar to *kufas seur l'yeshiva* (*Shulchan Aruch* 452:9), meaning that once it is permanently designated for a non-food use it is considered to be *butel*, and is no longer a *chometz* item. This opinion has appeared in some recent *halachic* works and it is a total mistake. *Kufas seur* loses its status as *chometz* because the *chometz* does not contribute to its functionality. In the case of the deodorant the alcohol contributes to its functionality. Whether it's designated as a food or non-food is not relevant. Shampoo- The alcohol that they contain is almost certainly not *chometz* since most of the alcohol in the United States is from corn. Wheat extract in the shampoo is *butel* in more than 1/60. However, it is still better not to use any products on *Pesach* without checking to see if it's allowed to be used. Unflavored Seltzer- one may purchase unflavored seltzer for *Pesach* without a *hechsher*.

Starched Shirts

According to the basic premise of the law a person can wear starched shirts on *Pesach* as long as the starch was put on before *Pesach*. It is customary that we refrain from wearing them because during the meals some starch might fall into the food.

Licking Envelopes

Glue which is on the back of stamps and envelopes should not be licked on *Pesach* because the glue might contain wheat starch which would be *chometz*.

Using Glass Cups

In previous years glass would break when hot water was placed in them. Therefore, it was the custom to use the same glass cups throughout the whole year since it never absorbed hot liquid. Today, our glass withstands heat; therefore, one should not use the same glassware for *Pesach* that is used all year round, because they go through the dishwasher together with *chometz*.

Checking Romaine Lettuce for Bugs

If one were to put the lettuce up to the light, as most people do, it is very likely that they will miss seeing the bug. The bugs on romaine lettuce called aphids are the same color as the lettuce. One should have a lamp or light and hold the lettuce between you and the light. The lettuce is translucent and the bugs are opaque. This way you will be able to see the bugs clearly. Another way to check for bugs would be to use a light box. When purchasing Aleh Katif lettuce the aforementioned checking is not required. However, one should check this lettuce just like any other fruit is checked. When



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checking iceberg lettuce, if there are no bugs in the first 4-5 layers there is no bug in the rest of the head. This is not the case by romaine lettuce.

Pills

Pills which are not chewable are not considered edible items and are therefore permitted to be taken as medication on *Pesach*. This does not apply to vitamins. If there is an available substitute it's always preferred. It is therefore worthwhile checking out the medicines for *Pesach*.

Tums

When there are no Tums® available, the best thing to do when experiencing heartburn is to take baking soda and mix it with water. The baking soda eliminates the heartburn immediately.