

Section 2 2026 Pesach Prep & Wrap-Up

What to Know Before & After

For those planning on selling their chametz through Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person by March 30th, the Monday before Pesach.



If you have an ongoing order that contains chametz, make sure to cancel or suspend it prior to Pesach.

Don't forget to give Ma'os Chittim through Jewish Family Service.

Get ready to start counting Sefira!

All Kashering and counter covering should be completed by Wednesday, April 1st by 1:25 PM

Matzoh may NOT be eaten on Erev Pesach!

Don't forget to make an Eruv Tavshillin before the first days of Pesach!

Shmura Matzoh must be used for both sederim.

Chametz sold through Rabbi Wender can once again be used on Thursday night April 9th after 9:00 PM.

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Section ii: Pesach Prep & Wrap-Up



Buying For Pesach

When buying items for *Pesach*, please make sure the item is marked "Kosher for Passover" or "כשר לפסח". Some stores may erroneously display *non-Pesach* food as *Kosher* for the holiday.

Mechiras Chametz

Selling Chametz

In the past, before refrigeration and preservatives, it was natural to eliminate all *chametz* from one's home before *Pesach*. Today, with those food saving amenities, many people choose to retain their *chametz* for after *Pesach*. Accordingly, a legal mechanism has become popular that allows you to sell your *chametz* to a non-Jewish person for the duration of the holiday.

Rabbi Wender will be available for *Mechiras Chametz* most nights before *Mincha* and after *Maariv* during the two weeks before *Pesach* (except for Friday & Saturday nights). Please let the Rabbi know where your *chametz* will be stored.

For those planning on selling their *Chametz* through Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person by March 30th, the Monday before *Pesach*. For your convenience, we've included a blank "Sale of *Chametz* Form" in this Planner that you can fill out in advance and bring with you when you arrange with the Rabbi to sell your *Chametz*.

All *chametz* which is sold must be stored away in cabinets or closets by the time of the sale, and tape should be applied there to remind us not to open them. The *chametz* should not be locked up. Food that is sold by Rabbi Wender must be in their designated locations by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, April 1st.

***Chametz* sold through Rabbi Wender can once again be used on Thursday night April 9th, after 9:00 PM.**



Bedikas chametz

On Tuesday night March 31st after 8:20 PM, *Bedikas chametz* is performed. After reciting the *bracha*, a candle or flashlight should be used to check the entire house. **This is not a symbolic search or only a game to find the pieces of bread which were scattered around the house.** All areas which may have contained *chametz* should be searched. After the *bedika*, one should make a verbal nullification of *chametz* in a language that one understands.



Tevilas Kailim

Kosher Cook and similar companies:

Please be aware that utensils sold from companies [such as "Kosher Cook" etc.] that state on the packaging "*Ein Tzurich Tevila*" ("*does not need to be tovel'd*") is only relevant if purchased in a Jewish owned store. All utensils that are purchased in non-Jewish owned stores require *Tevilah*.



Shopping Alert for 2026

Hashgachah agencies across the country are reporting a concerning trend: non-KFP items are mistakenly packaged alongside KFP products, often bearing striking resemblances to each other. Additionally, there's been a surge in new *kitniyos* products this year.

It's crucial for consumers to exercise caution and thoroughly inspect everything they purchase for Pesach.



Going Away for Pesach

If you are going away before Tuesday night March 31st and nobody will be staying in your house over Pesach:



- ▲ Pick one small room in your house for your *bedikah*.
- ▲ Make a *bedikah* the night before you leave, without a *bracha*.
- ▲ Note on your *chametz* form that you are going away early.

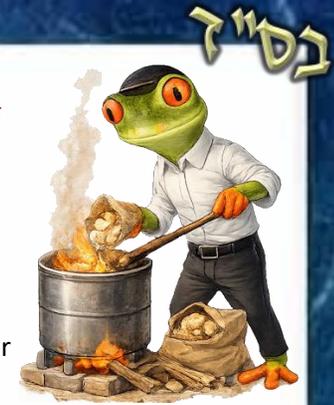
If others will be staying in your house:

- ▲ You must clean all of the rooms that will be used.
- ▲ Any room you did not clean must be closed off (with tape or closed doors).



If you are going away on Tuesday night March 31st OR during the day on Wednesday, April 1st:

- ▲ Make a *bedikah* with a *bracha* on Tuesday night before you leave.
- ▲ Burn your *chametz* at the proper time by taking it with you to burn, or giving it to somebody to burn for you.



Chametz Orders



- ☞ If you have an ongoing order that contains *chametz*, make sure to cancel or suspend it prior to *Pesach*.
- ☞ One **may not** order *chametz* before *Pesach* or on *Chol Hamoed* to be delivered after *Pesach*.

Ma'os Chittim

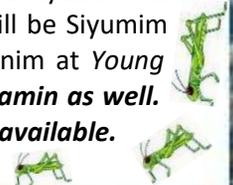
It is a custom to give *tzidaka* to the poor before *Pesach* to help prepare for the holiday. This *mitzvah* is referred to as *Ma'os Chittim*. **Jewish Family Service** collects money for their Passover Assistance Campaign to help local families make *Pesach*. [Please see page 18 for more details.](#)



Ta'anis Bechorim



Ta'anis Bechorim takes place this year on Wednesday, April 1st. All male firstborn or fathers of young male firstborn must fast or attend a siyum. The fast will begin at 6:20 AM. There will be Siyumin following the 6:10 and 7:15 Minyanim at *Young Israel*. **There will be another 2 minyamin as well. Information to be announced when available.**



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Erev Pesach

Chametz should not be eaten after 10:57 AM on Wednesday morning, April 1st. All chametz must be disposed of by 12:11 PM. The process of destroying one's Chametz is called "Biur Chametz". After burning the chametz the final nullification of the chametz is said. On Erev Pesach, no matzoh products or baked products made with matzoh meal should be eaten.



Matzoh

Shmura Matzoh must be used for both sederim. Egg matzohs, grape matzohs, chocolate covered matzohs, and Passover Tam Tams are kneaded with "Mei Perot" (fruit juice) and may be used **only** by children or the elderly who cannot eat regular matzoh. Naturally all matzoh must have Pesach supervision, since regular matzohs are chametz..



Cooking on Yom Tov

It is forbidden to prepare on one day of Yom Tov for the following day of Yom Tov.

Therefore, on **Thursday, April 2**, no preparations for the Thursday night Yom Tov meal and the **second Seder** may take place during the day on Thursday. Preparations may begin only after candle lighting at **8:26 PM** that evening.

Cooking for **Friday night (April 3)** and **Shabbos (April 4)** must be completed by **7:10 PM on Friday, April 3**. However, in order to cook on Friday for Shabbos, one must make an **Eruv Tavshillin** in advance on **Wednesday, April 1**. (Read on for more details.)

Similarly, on **Wednesday, April 8**, no preparations for the Wednesday night Yom Tov meal may take place during the day on Wednesday. Preparations may begin only after candle lighting at **8:31 PM** that evening.

Matzoh products or products made with Matzoh Meal should not be eaten on Erev Pesach.



Eruv Tavshillin

On **Wednesday, April 1**, one should make an **Eruv Tavshillin** (any time before Yom Tov) in order to permit cooking on **Friday for Shabbos**. One takes a baked item (for example, **matzoh**) and a cooked item (for example, a **hard-boiled egg**) and recites the text found in the Siddur.

All **cooking on Friday, April 3** must be completed by **7:10 PM**. Shabbos candles must be lit by 7:23 PM.

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Buying Chametz After Pesach

We are fortunate because at this time in Houston there are no stores that present a problem for purchasing chametz right after *Pesach*. Additionally, bakeries & restaurants that are under HKA supervision, are also acceptable right after Pesach.

Sefiras HaOmer

There is a *Mitzvah* to count the *Omer* for seven weeks, beginning on the second night of *Pesach*. The *Mitzvah* is to count both weeks and days. One makes a *Bracha* each time they count. If a person forgot to count at night, they can count during the day the next day without a *Bracha*, and continue making the *Bracha* the following night. If a person omitted an entire day (night and day), they continue counting but without a *Bracha*.

There are many versions of this year's *Sefiras HaOmer* counting chart available. You may access some of them on our **Pesach Planner website** at <http://pesachplanner.org/>. Then choose the Sefiras HaOmer link.



Rabbi Asher Block



Diane Puschett

Join us in providing Passover Assistance to our community.

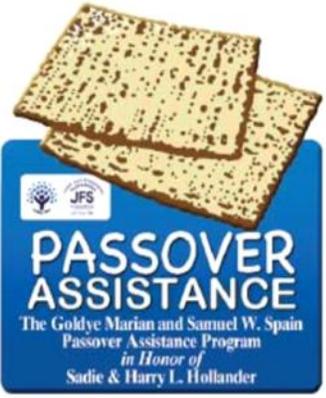
Alexander Jewish Family Service helps over 400 families each year with Passover Assistance.

Please contribute, visit alexanderjfs.org/forms/passover

The Board and Staff of Alexander JFS wish you and your family a wonderful Passover!

Carolyn Mintz Kaplan, President, Alexander JFS
Carl E. Josehart, CEO, Alexander JFS

Rabbi Asher Block and Diane Puschett
Co-Chairs, Passover Assistance Program



Alexander JFS is a partner agency of Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and a United Way partner



Sale of Chametz Form



Rabbi Wender will be available for Mechiras Chametz weekday evenings before Mincha and after the 9:00 PM Maariv, from March 24th to March 30th

For those planning on selling their Chametz through Rabbi Wender, one should meet with the Rabbi in person by March 30th, the Monday before Pesach.

For your convenience, here is a blank "Sale of chametz Form" that you can fill out in advance

and bring with you when you arrange with the Rabbi to sell your Chametz.



Note to Seller: Please remember to tape closed or otherwise delineate areas that contain your chametz

DELEGATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, fully empower as my agent (shaliach) and permit Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and/or the "Beis Din of Houston" to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell, trade, or give away all CHAMETZ possessed by me (knowingly or unknowingly) as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. chametz, doubt of chametz, and all kinds of chametz mixtures), as well as chametz that tends to harden and to adhere to a surface of pans, pots and cooking and usable utensils, and to lease all places wherein the chametz owned by me may be found, especially (but not exclusively) in the premises indicated below, before the time when chametz becomes forbidden by halacha. I do, however, retain the right to walk through those leased areas.

Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and/or the Beis Din of Houston has the full right to dispose of my chametz in any way they see fit and to lease the areas where the chametz is located by transactions, (whether I own that area or rent it) as they deem fit and proper and for such time which they believe necessary. This right also extends to chametz that I might acquire between now (the time I sign this document) and the time of sale of chametz. I hereby give the said Rabbi Yehoshua Wender and the Beis Din full power and authority to appoint a substitute in their stead with full power to sell and lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical regulations and laws, and also in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States.

Date: _____ Name: _____ (Please Print)

Signature: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State _____

Office Address: _____
(if chametz in office)

I will be away from home /office during Pesach, and will be leaving before Tuesday night, March 31st _____

The main general location of the chametz to be sold (but not to the exclusion of other locations):

