

# PASSOVER PREPARATION

Since the Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (leaven) during *Pesach*, we arrange for the sale of the *chametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat chametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now permitted *chametz*. If ownership of the *chametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *chametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well.

The Torah prohibits the eating of *chametz* during *Pesach*, and since many common foods contain some admixture of *chametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for *Pesach*. This is a general guideline.

## **FOOD:**

Prohibited foods include leavened bread, cakes biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffee with cereal derivatives in them, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. While most Ashkenazic authorities include corn, millet, legumes, beans, peas in the list of prohibited foods, they are called *kitniyot*, and are not *chametz*. Peanuts and peanut oil are permissible, and some authorities permit products such as corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above.

The following foods require no *kosher lePesach* label if purchased prior to *Pesach*:

Unopened packages or containers of natural coffee (without cereal additives), sugar, pure tea, salt, pepper, natural spices, fruit juices with no additives (frozen, canned or bottled), frozen (uncooked) vegetables (for legumes see above), milk, butter, cottage cheese, cream cheese, ripened cheeses, such as cheddar (hard), muenster (semi-soft) and camembert (soft), tuna in water (no oil added), frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives), baking soda.

The following foods require no *kosher lePesach* label if purchased before or during *Pesach*:

Fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes see above), eggs, fresh fish and fresh meat.

The following foods require a *kosher lePesach* label if purchased before or during *Pesach*:

All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal and any products containing matzah), wine, vinegar, liquor, oils, dried fruits, candy, chocolate flavored milk, ice cream, yogurt and soda.

The following foods require a *kosher lePesach* label if purchased during *Pesach*:

Processed foods (canned, frozen or bottled): milk, butter, juices, vegetables, fruit, milk products, spices, coffee, tea and fish (as well as all foods listed immediately above).

**DETERGENTS:** If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a *kosher lePesach* label.

**MEDICINE:** *Chametz* binders are used in many pills. If another form/preparation is available, that is preferable; however, health takes priority and medications must be taken if needed.

**UTENSILS:** The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil. This means that utensils used in stove-top cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

**OVENS AND RANGES:** Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens. A microwave oven, which does not cook food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and then a cup of water (lemon juice may be added) should be placed in it. Then the oven should be turned on until most of the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for *Pesach*.

**GLASSWARE:** May be thoroughly scrubbed before *Pesach* or put through a dishwasher.

**DISHWASHER:** After not using the machine for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run.

**ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES** - If the parts that come into contact with *chametz* are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned).

**KITCHEN SINK** - A metal sink can be kashered by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used.