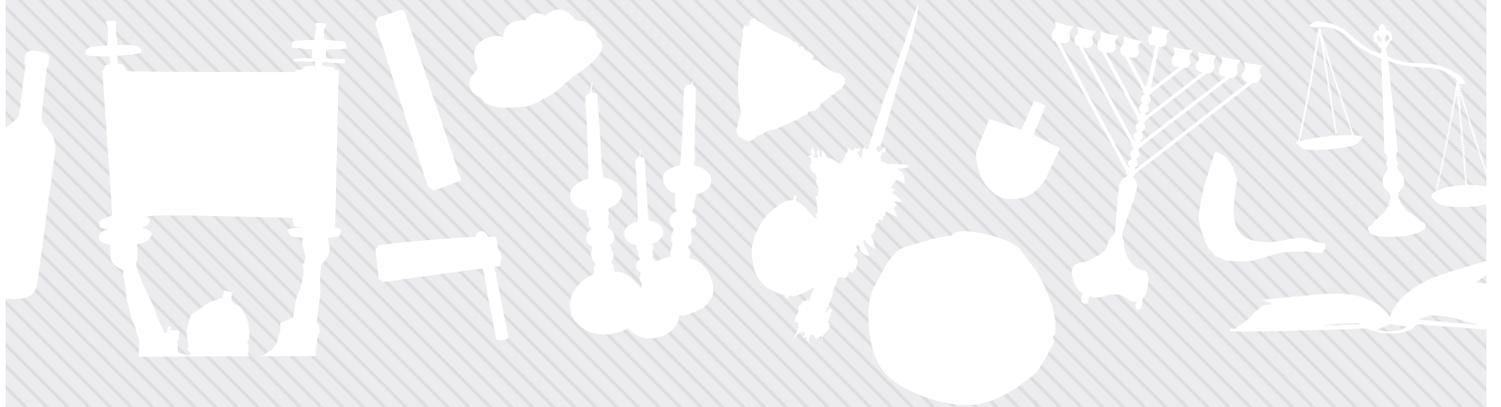


# HALACHOS HATZRICHOS

PACKET #44



## CLEANING FOR PESACH

The Torah is very strict about *chometz*. There is a *mitzvah* that no *chometz* can be seen or found on *Pesach*, and we can't enjoy *chometz* in any way. There is a very serious punishment called *Kares* for someone who eats *chometz* on *Pesach*.

There are many kinds of food that are *asur* to eat, like meat from a non-kosher animal, or milk and meat together. But the *issur* of *chometz* is different. For all other kinds of *asur* food, there is something called "*bittul*." If there is a big pot of cholent, and a little bit of milk splashed in by mistake, the milk can become *botul*, counted like it wasn't there, and the soup might still be kosher.

But *chometz* is different. Even one teeny tiny piece is *asur* to eat!

Because of this, Yidden are extra strict with *Pesach*. We are very careful to stay far away from even a CHANCE of eating *chometz*.

The Alter Rebbe writes that Yidden are holy, and made a *minhag* to scrub off all *chometz* that we can find stuck to things, even though they don't have to according to *halacha*. They even clean and scrub places where they don't find *chometz*, just because *chometz* might have touched there!

(See *Shevach Hamoadim*, introduction to *Hilchos Pesach*)



# CLEANING FOR PESACH

If you look in *Shulchan Aruch*, you will see that really, cleaning for *Pesach* should be very easy and quick. All we need to do is clean up the big pieces of *chometz* that a person might eat by mistake. But because Yidden love Hashem so much, they are extra careful to clean much more than they NEED to. This is one way they show their love for Hashem's special *Yom Tov* of *Pesach*.

This hard work is very much appreciated by Hashem, and it has an amazing *koach* to help all Yidden!

The Rebbe Maharash once told this story, about R' Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev:

Every sound of the shofar — *TeKiyah*, **SH**evarim, *TeRuah*, *TeKiah*; “*KaShRaK*” for short — creates a *malach* that will beg Hashem to help the Yidden. On *Rosh Hashana*, after we blow the shofar, we say a “*Yehi Ratzon*,” asking Hashem that the *malochim* that come from each sound of the shofar should ask Hashem to give Yidden a good year.

One year, after saying this *Yehi Ratzon*, R' Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev added: “*Zeese Tatte! Av Rachum!* Hashem, I speak to You with Your love for the Yidden as a father to his son. If the *malochim* that came out of the shofar that Levi Yitzchak *ben Sarah* blew were too weak, listen to a different set of “*KaShRaK*” *malochim*! Listen to the *malochim* created by the **K**ratzen (scraping), **SH**oiben (sanding), **R**eiben (scrubbing), and **K**asherem (*kashering* the *keilim*) that were done by the Yidden in honor of *Pesach*! Let these strong and healthy *malochim* be the ones to come ask You for a good and sweet year for all of the Yidden!”

(See *Shevach Hamoadim*, introduction to *Hilchos Pesach*)



# CHOMETZ ON PESACH

On *Pesach*, we are not allowed to eat even a tiny drop of *chometz*.

We are not even allowed to own any *chometz*. If there is *chometz* that we don't want to throw away, we close it off and sell it to a *goy* for *Pesach*.

We are also not allowed to have any pieces of *chometz* around that someone might eat by mistake! Because of that, the night before *Pesach*, we search our house for *chometz*, called *Bedikas Chometz*.

After this search we are "*mevatei*" any *chometz* that we didn't find, saying that it is like dust and not important.



# CLEANING FOR PESACH

Before the search for *chometz*, we first clean our house. We sweep up and straighten up the house to make it easier to look everywhere for *chometz*. We also very carefully clean any parts of the house that might come in contact with our *Pesach* food, to make sure that not even a tiny drop of *chometz* gets mixed with it.

One of the places we will need to search is under and behind heavy appliances, like the stove and refrigerator. Pieces of *chometz* end up under there very often! Because it can be hard to move them, we can do this before the actual night of *Bedikas Chometz*. We can move the refrigerator to clean behind it, and then search there with a candle (but without saying a *bracha*). Then we won't need to move it again during *Bedikas Chometz*, if there was no chance *chometz* got pushed under there again since we checked.

See "Notes for Pesach," by Dayan Raskin



# SELLING CHOMETZ (PART 1)

Not having *chometz* on *Pesach* is a very serious thing. We are not allowed to even have it lying around the house! This is called “*Bal Yeira’eh U’bal Yeimatze*h,” that it can’t be seen or found.

Because of this, we need to search around our entire house to make sure that all of the *chometz* is taken out. We are careful that not even a little bit of *chometz* should be found, and spend time before *Pesach* getting rid of it. We are *mevatel* any *chometz* that we don’t find, saying that it is like it is worth nothing and doesn’t count.

But what if we do have real *chometz* that DOES count to us, like *chometz* that we want to use after *Pesach*? We can’t say that it is *botul*, because it is important to us still! But we can’t keep it, because then we would be doing a very serious *aveira*, and this *chometz* would be *asur* FOREVER to use or eat or sell, even after *Pesach*!

The *Chachomim* tell us that this *chometz* can be sold to a *goy*. This is called *Mechiras Chometz*. Because the *halachos* of selling *chometz* are very complicated, we don’t do this by ourselves. Instead, we authorize the *Rav* to sell our *chometz* for us.

*(Some Yidden don’t sell their chometz on Pesach, because there can be questions about if the chometz is counted as being completely sold. The Alter Rebbe taught that we should sell our chometz using an Arev Kablan, a type of guarantor, which makes sure that our chometz IS completely sold!)*

