

Various Food-Related Practices

Food that Fell on the Floor

22. Some people do not eat food that fell on the floor on Pesach unless it is something that can be washed, e.g., a fruit. They are concerned that a crumb of chometz was on the floor and got stuck to the food. Even if the house was thoroughly cleaned, perhaps a crumb of chometz came in from outside on someone's shoe (ע"פ (באר היטב סי' תנ"א סקמ"ג, הגרש"א, שלמי מועד עמ' של"א).

Found Wheat in a Chicken

23. Chicken feed usually consists of grains and seeds. When opening a chicken to prepare it for salting and cooking, it is common to find wheat kernels, which are chometz (ס"י ויא"לך), in the intestines. Thus, it is very important to clean the inside of a chicken before salting or roasting it so that it does not cause any issur.

24. Some high-level kashrus agencies make sure that for a certain amount of time before Pesach, the chickens are only fed non-chometz food, e.g., corn, to minimize the chances of finding chometz inside them (מדריך הכשרות עדה"ח). Nevertheless, one must still clean a chicken's insides well before preparing it.

25. It is more common to find wheat inside whole chickens that were not cut all the way open in the slaughterhouse before being salted. I remember that several years ago, lots of wheat kernels were found inside chickens in a certain city, creating many serious shailos regarding the kashrus of the chickens and the dishes used to cook them. These things do still happen.

26. When one buys chickens that are completely split down the back before being salted, as is common in Eretz Yisroel for chickens with high-level hechsherim, it is easier to make sure there is no wheat inside before salting and cooking.

27. **Not eating chicken.** Because of these concerns, some people do not eat any poultry on Pesach (בכ"י יוסף סי' תס"ז ס"א, בן איש חי פ' צ'). They only eat animal meat that does not have these issues.

28. **Buying all poultry before Pesach.** Other people buy before Pesach all the poultry they will use throughout Pesach. This way, they can clean the internal parts thoroughly before Pesach. Even if a wheat kernel is found on Pesach and removed, the flavor was botul before Pesach. It is also advisable to cook all poultry before Pesach to effect bitul b'shishim (שם ומ"ב שם), as on Pesach itself, the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture assur (above, 3).

Buying and Cooking All Food before Pesach

29. **Buying everything before Pesach.** Some people buy all their Pesach needs before Pesach so that if any crumb of chometz is present, it will become botul before Pesach. As mentioned above, the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture forbidden during Pesach itself (מנהג ירושלים, מנהגי ארץ ישראל, מועד לכל חי סי' ב' סכ"ד).

30. **Cooking everything before Pesach.** Also, some people try to cook everything possible before Pesach. That way, any potential chometz crumb will become botul b'shishim. During Pesach, the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture forbidden.

Drinking Water on Pesach

Bread Fell into Water

31. **Before Pesach.** If a slice of bread or dough falls into water before Pesach and the water is filtered before Pesach, it may be drunk on Pesach, as the crumbs were filtered out and the flavor of the bread was botul b'shishim before Pesach (מ"ב תמ"ז סקל"ו). If the water was not filtered, it is forbidden out of concern some crumbs remained in the water and dissolved. Even if they are botul b'shishim, we hold that a dry issur mixed in a liquid is revived (above, 12).

32. **During Pesach.** If a slice of bread fell into water on Pesach, even if it is botul b'shishim, the water is assur since the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture assur on Pesach (above, 3). Filtering does not help on Pesach since the crumbs made the water assur right when they fell in, even if they were there for less than 24 hours [the amount of time for "kevishah"] (מ"ב סי' תס"ז ס"ק ס"ב).

Grain Kernels in a Well on Pesach

33. If grain kernels are found in a well on Pesach, all caution possible should be exercised not to use that water on Pesach, as the grain might have sat in the water for 24 hours. Still, since water is vital to life, if no other water is available, the water is permissible due to a double safeik: perhaps the grain fell in just now, and even if it fell in earlier, perhaps the kernels only cracked and became soft within the past 24 hours, i.e., 24 hours have not passed since the kernels became chometz. This relies on the poskim who hold that

something cold does not cause issur without sitting for 24 hours (מ"ב סי' תס"ז ס"ק ס"ז).

34. **Well water.** If a person's water supply consists of well water, as long as he does not know that chometz fell into the supply, every time he draws water, it is proper to filter it through a clean cloth (שם). Even though filtering does not help on Pesach if one knows with certainty that there is chometz in the water (above, 32), strictly speaking we do not need to fear that chometz fell in (הרב סמ"ח).

Water from the Kinneret

35. Based on all the above, how can we use water from the tap that comes from the Kinneret? People definitely throw bread into the water; the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture assur; and filtering does not help on Pesach itself. How can we drink tap water on Pesach? [Incidentally, as of late, the water supply in Yerushalayim and Bnei Brak on Pesach is from groundwater, not the Kinneret.] There are several factors that combine to allow drinking tap water (הדברים מבוארים בס' בית דוד פסח פ"ה הע' 32).

36. **"Undrawn" (מחוברים) water.** Water that has not been drawn does not become assur from chometz (ד"ה לא, שו"ת אבני נזר (ש"י ע"ז מ"ז. ע"י משי"כ בשו"ת חוקי חיים ח"א סי' ס"ו) (ש"י ע"ד אות ט).

37. **Impossible to impart flavor.** Another reason is that Chazal only forbade a tiny amount of chometz when it is possible for it to impart flavor. If it is not possible whatsoever for it to impart flavor, e.g., in a constantly flowing river, the chometz does not make the mixture assur (שו"ת ספר יהושע סי' ה', יד יהודה סי' ק"ה סק"א).

38. **Replaced.** Some say that the halachah of kavush [releasing bliyos after sitting in something for 24 hours] does not apply to water that is constantly replaced (טוב טעם ודעת תליתי סי' ר"ד). However, others argue and say the issur of kavush applies to water that is replaced (יד יהודה שם, ע"י משי"כ בשו"ת חוקי חיים ח"א סי' ס"ו).

39. **Even a mashehu has a minimum.** A broad heter – and the main one – is that even a mashehu has a minimum (הובא בחוטי שני (פ"ו סק"ד). Chazal only said the smallest amount of chometz makes a mixture assur and cannot become botul if there is a tangible chometz mixture. Chometz crumbs in the Kinneret does not constitute a tangible chometz mixture; that is not what Chazal forbade (הגרש"א, הליכות שלמה פ"ד ס"ה).

Preparing Filtered Water before Pesach

40. Due to the abovementioned concerns, some people filter before Pesach all the water they will need for cooking and drinking throughout Pesach and keep it in large vats. This way, they do not need to use tap water on Pesach. This is an old minhag of Yerushalayim from when water came from wells and also today, when the water supply can come from the Kinneret through the National Water Carrier system (ש"י קנה בשם פסח פ"ג אות כ"ח, אור לציון פ"ח סק"ט).

41. However, strictly speaking, one can rely even lechatchilah on the abovementioned poskim who hold that tap water is no cause for concern on Pesach (הגר"ש וואזנר, הגר"ח קנייבסקי). However, it is proper and worthwhile to put a piece of cloth over the faucet to filter the water (בית לוי ס"ה א') even though it is not technically necessary since our water undergoes a cleansing and filtering process at a water treatment plant and it is very clean.

Bottled Mineral Water

42. Some people only use bottled mineral water bought before Pesach for drinking and cooking since this water has undergone a filtering process. Even if there was a concern for chometz, it was botul b'shishim before Pesach.

43. **Kosher for Pesach** Strictly speaking, mineral water does not need to be labeled "Kosher for Pesach." Nevertheless, some people do not buy any food or drink on Pesach without a high-level hechsher.

44. **Label on the bottle.** Some are concerned that a container with water in it for 24 hours can release and absorb an assur substance touching its outside surface through kevishah (סי' ק"ה ס"א). Thus, they must ensure that the glue used to attach the label does not contain chometz so that it does not make the water in the bottle assur (הגר"ב ראקאו, גאב"ד גייטסהעד). Hence, the sticker with the hechsher is the very thing that needs a hechsher for Pesach on bottled water... (מ"ר כ"ק מרן גאב"ד ירושלים).

"קול ששון וקול שמחה קול התן וקול בלה"

הגליון נתרם ע"י ידידנו, האי איש יקירא
הרה"ג ר' חיים משה הלוי פראנק שליט"א
ראש כולל 'זכרון צבי' ירושלים
לרגל שמחת נישואי בתו הכלה שתיה" עב"ג
החתן החשוב החתן יצחק בלייער נ"י
מבחיני ישיבת בריסק
בן הרה"ג רבי אברהם זאב בלייער שליט"א
ר"מ בישיבת קרלין סמולין ירושלים, מח"ס 'או יבקע'