

# לוקוטי ופסקי הלכות "חוקי חיים"

ותלמוד  
"תוקף תוספת"  
לעשות רצונך  
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Halochos compiled by HaRav Chaim Bleier – Translated from the Hebrew edition by R' Zerachya Shicker

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293

## Some Rules of the Issurim of Chometz

1. In the previous issues, we discussed several rules of hagalah, as well as how to kasher a kitchen sink, faucet (Issue 291), and counter (Issue 292). We will now explain, b'ezras Hashem, how to use other areas of the kitchen on Pesach. We will differentiate between areas that come in contact with Pesach foods and areas that do not. We will start with a short introduction.

### Issur to Eat Chometz

2. **Cooked before Pesach.** If a small crumb of chometz accidentally got mixed into Pesach food and cooked before Pesach, it is botul b'shishim if it is not identifiable (שריע סי' תמ"ז ס"ד). It does not become "revived" on Pesach and make the food assur since it dissolved in the cooking process and is considered lach b'lach, which is botul b'shishim (רמ"א שם, מ"ב סקל"ג).
3. **Cooked on Pesach.** However, if it got mixed in on Pesach, it makes the whole mixture assur even if it was cooked and the volume of the rest of the mixture is sixty times greater. This is because on Pesach, even a tiny amount of chometz makes food assur (שריע שם ס"א).
4. **Cooking before Pesach.** Because of this, some people buy all their food products before Pesach (Minhag Yerushalayim; see Issue 262, par. 29) and cook as much as possible before Pesach so that if ו"י some chometz gets mixed in, it will be botul before Pesach and not lead to transgressing the issur of chometz on Pesach (ibid., 30).
5. **Peeling fruits.** Similarly, some are meikel on various chumros when cooking before Pesach because even if there is potentially a bit of chometz, it will be botul b'shishim before Pesach. For example, there is a minhag to peel all fruits and vegetables on Pesach (Issue 261, par. 28) and not to eat ones that cannot be peeled, e.g., strawberries, peaches, peppers, tomatoes, and the like (ibid., 29). Nevertheless, before Pesach, some cook with unpeeled fruits and vegetables and also use ones that cannot be peeled, sufficing with rinsing them alone and then cooking. The reason for this is that even if there is a potential crumb of chometz, it is botul b'shishim before Pesach.

### בל יראה ובל ימצא

6. **Less than a K'zayis.** Simply speaking, the issur of ימצא ובל יראה applies to chometz on Pesach that is the size of a K'zayis (שריע סי' תמ"ז ס"ז). Some poskim hold the issur also applies to a proper piece of food even if less than a K'zayis, e.g., a small cookie or pretzel, based on the rule התורה אסור מן התורה (ספק) חצי שיעור אסור מן התורה (בחו"א סי' קט"ז סק"ד). Accordingly, one would need to get rid of any proper chometz food that is somewhat edible, even if it is less than a K'zayis (הובא במ"ב סי' תמ"ב סקל"ג).
7. **No issur.** However, most poskim hold the rule of חצי שיעור אסור מן התורה does not apply to the issur of ימצא ובל יראה (שם), because it is not an issur of eating (שרית חכם) because the issur manifests itself in a passive form (שם), or because the issur manifests itself in a passive form (שם). Also, the logic that something less than the minimum size can combine to make up the shiur ["חזי לאצטרופי"] only applies to an issur of eating, because after eating one half-k'zayis, one can become chayav when he eats another half-k'zayis. However, with ימצא ובל יראה, if one finds half a K'zayis of chometz, he will not be chayav on it; even if he finds a second half-k'zayis, he will only become chayav starting from that point and on (שרית שאג"א סי' פ"א).

8. **D'rabanan.** Although the poskim argue on a d'oraisa level whether one must get rid of less than a K'zayis, most poskim imply that there is a chiyuv d'rabanan to get rid of it so that one does not end up eating it (ט"ז סק"ה, שריע הרב סכ"ה, קו"א סקט"ז בהג"ה, מנ"א סי' תמ"ד). (סק"ד, חק יעקב סקט"ו, מ"ב שם סקל"ג).
9. **Bread crumb.** The poskim argue whether strictly speaking one must get rid of insignificant crumbs of bread that people do not generally pick up to eat. Some hold there is no need whatsoever to get rid of them (ר"ד הובא בשלטי גיבורים לדרך מ"ה, ריטב"א ז. ו. ד"ה הואיל).
10. Others hold if one sees them or knows they exist, he must get rid of them, but he does not need to search for them. We follow this opinion: strictly speaking, if one knows they exist, he must clean and get rid of them (רי"א הובא בשלטי גיבורים שם, חק יעקב סי' תל"ח סק"ז), (פמ"ג מ"ז סק"ד טור). If they are on the floor, one does not need to get rid of them since they get destroyed by people walking on them (ט"ז סק"ה, שריע סי' תמ"ז ס"ד ובי"ש שם, מ"א סק"ו מ"ב שם סקט"ו).
11. **Minhag to be machmir.** Although strictly speaking one does not need to search for small crumbs, Yidden are holy and are machmir to clean places that commonly have crumbs – even if there are no crumbs known to be there – due to the possible presence of some crumb.

### Chometz in an Inaccessible Location

12. If chometz fell into a deep crevice, but one can reach it with his hand, he must remove it. Otherwise, he does not need to go to the trouble of removing it even if he can see there is definitely chometz there; he can suffice with bitul (מ"ב סקל"ט), (שריע סי' תל"ג ס"ז, מ"ב סקל"ט). He does not need to make efforts and use a rod to extend his reach and get it (רבינו דוד).

### Minhag to Clean and Scrape Every Area

13. There are many areas in a house which, strictly speaking, do not need to be cleaned and scraped even though they come in contact with chometz during the year. This is because the whole concern is that some crumbs might be there, but it is not normal to eat from these areas. However, the Mechaber writes that people scrape walls and chairs that touched chometz, and there is basis for this (שריע סי' תמ"ב ס"ז), i.e., the minhag should not be mocked as a foolish minhag or extreme chumra since there is basis for it in the Yerushalmi (מ"ב סקל"ח).
14. **With joy, not stress.** Kashering the house and kitchen should not take a lot of time if you know what you need to do according to halacha. However, the above minhag to thoroughly clean everything puts a lot of stress on the household in general, and the woman of the house in particular. Thus, one should make all preparations related to kashering the kitchen as far in advance as possible so that the house can be kashered and made Pesachdik without difficulty or stress, and without making the work harder than necessary. Priority should be given to cleaning and preparing areas that need to be cleaned according to halacha over minhagim that are nice and wonderful to fulfill when possible.
15. It is a big mitzvah for all family members – including husband, sons, daughters, bochurim, and children – to help prepare the house for Pesach. Sweating to clean the house for Pesach to avoid any possible chometz is no less important than involvement in making matzos. In fact, strictly speaking, matzos can be made by others; cleaning the house from possible chometz cannot be done by others and also involves a lav and kareis.

## Different Areas of the House

### Areas that Come in Contact with Food

16. **Concern for the issur to eat.** Areas that come in contact with Pesach food must be completely cleaned, even from small crumbs, because even a tiny bit of chometz makes food assur on Pesach (ש"ע סי' תמ"ז ס"א) and there is a concern a crumb will get mixed into the Pesach food (above, 3). Thus, all areas in the kitchen that come in contact with Pesach food – e.g., work surfaces, cupboards, stoves, sinks, fridges, freezers, tables used for dining, and the like – must be cleaned well from all crumbs. L'chatchilah, they should also be covered to minimize the possibility of chometz crumbs getting mixed in.
17. **Cracks and crevices.** Areas that come in contact with Pesach food but are inaccessible – e.g., cracks and crevices in the countertop, fridge, table, etc. – should be rinsed with a harsh cleaning agent that ruins flavor. Then, even if chometz crumbs get mixed into Pesach food, the food is not assur since the chometz is not edible for a dog (ש"ע תמ"ב ס"ט), and when it gets mixed in unintentionally, the concept of "אהושבירה" does not apply (מ"ב סקמ"ג).

### Areas that Do Not Come in Contact with Food

18. **Chometz in other areas in the house that do not come in contact with food must also be disposed of.** Even though there is no concern one will eat it, having it in his possession violates the issur of **בל יראה ובל ימצא**. Thus one must clean these areas well, but they do not have the same degree of severity as areas that come in contact with food. It is enough to clean surfaces with a damp cloth, and there is no need to cover these areas.

### Areas in the Kitchen

19. **Kitchen cupboards.** All compartments should be cleaned well. After cleaning areas that hold chometz, e.g., flour, cookies, bread, etc., it is proper to rinse them with water mixed with soap or a harsh substance so that if any chometz crumbs are left, their flavor will be ruined.
20. Similarly, it is proper to cover cupboards with new paper so that there is no contact between areas where chometz dishes and products touched and areas that will come in contact with Pesach dishes and foods (הגר"ש וואזנר). However, there is no need to cover the entire length of the cupboard walls or the upper surface; it is enough to cover the cupboard base and lower portion of the cupboard walls.

### Fridge, Freezer

21. **Fridge.** A fridge is used cold, so it is enough to rinse it. Thus, one should rinse and rub down the fridge well to remove any possible intact chometz, especially in the crevices. One should clean the crevices in the fridge door's rubber seal with a thin brush. Inaccessible crevices or spots should be rinsed with a harsh substance to ruin any crumbs. The same should be done for shelves and drawers with crevices. Still, it is always best to cover shelves and all areas where Pesach foods will go (מ"ר) (הגר"ש וואזנר, ב"שם קנה בשם).
22. **Freezer.** A freezer has the same status as a fridge. However, if ice accumulated, the freezer should be fully defrosted and only afterward cleaned well since chometz crumbs sometimes get stuck inside the ice. If one sees chometz in the freezer's air vent but cannot remove it, he should pour something on the chometz that will ruin it.
23. **כבוש in a freezer.** Some have a major Pesach chumra for a freezer used for chometz year round that accumulates a lot of ice. They treat it like a chometz utensil since chometz food likely became "absorbed" in the ice through the halacha of **כבוש כמבושל**, as several poskim say that **כבוש** applies to ice just like liquids (י"ד ק"ה) (פמ"ג משב"י י"ד ק"ה) (פמ"ג משב"י י"ד ק"ה), פמ"ג ש"ס ס"ק ס' (סק"א, ש"ת דבר שמואל הובא בפתחת י"ד ס"ט סק"ג, פמ"ג ש"ס ס"ק ס').
24. Since there are likely chometz bliyos in the freezer walls based on the rule of **כבוש כמבושל**, it cannot be kashered without a proper hagalah. If ice accumulates on Pesach and there is Pesach food inside, the Pesach food can become assur from the bliyos in the freezer walls based on **כבוש כמבושל** (כ"ב ס' ט"ו) (כבוש כמבושל פ"ד (ט"ז, ש"י קנה בשם פסח פ"ד).
25. According to this, one would need to make sure to only put Pesach food in the freezer if it is in two bags or wrapped in two layers of tinfoil. This ensures that it will be dry between the food and freezer walls, and bliyos do not transfer between utensils without a liquid medium. This way, there is no issue of **כבוש כמבושל** (ש"ס).

26. However, most poskim do not follow this chumra. There is not a consensus on the chumra of **כבוש** for ice – most poskim argue (ש"ת) מנחת יעקב י"ד, חו"ד ק"ה סק"א, שעה"צ תמוז סקמ"ז, מ"ר בש"ת שבט הקהתי ח"ג (ר"כ אות ד). Also, most chometz foods are either wrapped in plastic or in a dish in the freezer, whereas the ice is outside the dish. Not all poskim hold that **כבישה** can extract bliyos from the other side of the dish. Thus, one can be meikel. However, it is proper not to put uncovered Pesach food in the freezer. Pesach food should be wrapped in plastic, tinfoil, or the like (דברי יעקב סי' נה).

### Electric Appliances

27. **Toaster, sandwich maker.** Electric appliances used with bread usually have many crumbs inside. Since this is known chometz in a known location, it must be cleaned as much as possible to remove the crumbs. However, it is usually impossible to get all the crumbs. Thus, one should pour a substance on leftover crumbs in the device to ruin them so that any remaining crumbs are not edible and one can rely on bitul.

### Tables – Dining Area

28. A table eaten at without a tablecloth must be prepared for Pesach, as will be explained.
29. **Cleaning, irui.** One way to use a table that can be kashered for Pesach is by cleaning it and rinsing it well to get rid of intact chometz. Then, boiling water should be poured on it to kasher it from chometz bliyos. Even though plates and the like – which have **kli sheini** status – are usually used at the table and anything that spills is only **irui** from a **kli sheini**, sometimes soup or chometz spills from the pot itself, which is a **kli rishon**. Thus, the table must be kashered through **irui** (פ"י חדש ס"כ).
30. If there is a concern the table will be ruined by pouring boiling water over it, e.g., it is made from Formica; or if it has crevices that cannot be cleaned well; or if it is made from a material that cannot be kashered, e.g., earthen material or plastic, one should not rely on **irui**. It should be covered instead.
31. **Cleaning and covering.** Another method – and the more popular and accepted one – is to clean the table well and then cover it for Pesach with a thick plastic tablecloth set in place. Only the surface covered with the tablecloth should be used on Pesach (ע"פ מהר"ל) (ה"ל הגעלה אות י"ב, מ"ב ס"ק קט"ו).

### Tablecloths

32. Cloth tablecloths and cloth napkins used for chometz that had hot, sticky chometz spilled on them may be used on Pesach if they are first washed in a washing machine at a temperature of 40-45 °C (104-113 °F) with a detergent (פמ"ג מ"ז סוף ס"י) (תנ"א ד"ה וכלי גללים, הגר"ש וואזנר קובץ מבית לוי פס"ב ס"יא).

### Cleaning Chairs

33. **Strictly speaking.** Strictly speaking, chairs do not need to be cleaned from small crumbs since food is eaten while sitting on a chair, but not off the chair itself. One must just make sure there are no pieces of chometz, e.g., small leftovers of bread, Bissli, pretzels, etc., of a size that a person or child would pick up and eat. If there are just crumbs, they can be nullified with bitul chometz.
34. **Minhag.** However, there is an early minhag to clean chairs from chometz crumbs since they likely came in contact with chometz throughout the year (see above, 13). Those who beautify their chairs for Pesach with special cloth chair coverings have the added benefit of minimizing the concern for chometz crumbs on Pesach.

### Couch

35. One must clean a couch from chometz crumbs since people eat on it during the year. One can use a vacuum cleaner or damp cloth. The cushions must be removed since chometz leftovers are usually found between them. One should also stick his hands deep into the sides and along the length of the seam behind the couch in search of chometz that got stuck deep inside. However, any chometz out of reach, either due to depth or narrowness, does not need to be disposed of even if one can see it. Bitul is enough (above, 12).

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