

OMER: COUNTING

Halacha and Custom in Counting Omer

The only halacha of “counting the omer” is to say the blessing and then count the omer. Anything else is custom.

"Counting the Omer" Blessing

The blessing over counting the omer is “al sefirat ha'omer.”

How To Count Omer before Dark

The ideal time and way to count the omer is to wait until dark, stand up, say the blessing, and then count the omer for that day.

SITUATION You want to count the omer before dark (as is often done in *synagogues* at the end of *ma'ariv*).

STATUS Since the correct practice is to count the omer after dark, you should:

- Count again with a blessing sometime after dark, or else
- Count during the following day (but before sunset) without a blessing.

WHAT TO DO Do the counting without saying the blessing and make a condition (mentally or verbally, either is OK) that if you remember to count the omer again after dark, the first time you counted, does not count (!) Then, if you do remember after dark, say the blessing and count the omer for that day a second time.

If You Forget To Count Omer at Night

SITUATION You forgot to count omer at night.

WHAT TO DO

- Count the next morning/daytime without a blessing. Then,
- Resume saying the blessing the subsequent night.

If You Do Not Count Omer before Next Day Sunset

SITUATION You forgot to count omer at night and didn't count the following day before dark.

WHAT TO DO Do not say the omer blessing any more that year, but do continue to count the omer without the blessing.