

WHEN SHABBAT STARTS

WHEN SHABBAT STARTS: GENERAL

When Shabbat Starts: General

There are many approaches as to when to start Shabbat:

Men

For men, whichever is first:

- At sunset, or
- When they light candles intending to begin Shabbat then, or
- When they say Mizmor shir l'yom haShabbat.

Women

For women, whichever is first:

- When they light candles intending to begin Shabbat then (most people light 18 minutes before sunset but local customs can vary; e.g., Jerusalem), or
- In case of urgent need, just before sunset if they have not lit candles.

NOTE Even if a husband has finished ma'ariv for Shabbat, his wife is not required to start Shabbat when he does, and she may still light her candles at the normal candle lighting time. The husband does not need to wait outside until she has lit. However, the ideal situation is for the home to be ready (including table set) by the time the husband has finished ma'ariv and has returned home from synagogue.

Community-Wide Considerations

- If an entire community begins Shabbat at any time earlier than sunset on Friday, EVERYONE must begin Shabbat at that time.
- If there are at least two minyans in any community, no one is required to start Shabbat with the earliest one (but if you associate yourself with one of those minyans, you must follow their custom).

WHEN SHABBAT STARTS: IF SUN DOES NOT SET

When Shabbat Starts

NOTE There are many approaches as to when to start Shabbat!

Follow Nearest Jewish Community for Non-Setting Sun

If the sun does not set for more than 24 hours, such as north of the Arctic Circle in the summer, follow the nearest Jewish community's Shabbat starting time.

WHEN SHABBAT STARTS: WITHIN SHABBAT DOMAIN

Starting Shabbat within Shabbat Domain/Techum Shabbat

If an entire community starts Shabbat early, individuals must also start early.

NOTE If any part of the community starts on time, you may also do so.

Starting Shabbat outside Shabbat Domain/Techum Shabbat

If you are outside techum Shabbat (which may be as little as 0.7 miles, or 1 km, past the last house of an inhabited area—city, village, etc.), you may start Shabbat at sunset even if the nearby community starts early, as long as the rabbi from that community does not have authority over your area.