

WOMEN (AND GIRLS)

WOMEN: ATTIRE

Women's Dress Code

For women's dress code, see individual listings under ATTIRE:

[Introduction to Attire](#)

[Attire: Blessings/Torah/Prayer](#)

[Attire: Women: Tzni'ut](#)

[Attire: Married Women: Head Covering \(Kisui Rosh\)](#)

WOMEN: BET DIN

Women as Members of Bet Din

Women may not be members of a [bet din](#).

WOMEN: BLESSINGS

WOMEN: BIRKAT HAMAZON

Women: Repeating Birkat HaMazon

For women and repeating [birkat ha'mazon](#), see [Birkat HaMazon: When To Repeat If Forgot Additions](#).

Women: Mezuman

For women's [mezuman](#), see [Birkat HaMazon: Women's \[Mezuman\]\(#\) and \[Minyan\]\(#\)](#).

WOMEN: HAGOMEL

Women: HaGomel

For women and [ha'gomel](#) blessing, see [Women and HaGomel](#).

WOMEN: KADDISH

Women: Kaddish

For women and [kaddish](#), see [Kaddish: Who Should Say: Women](#) .

WOMEN: KIDDUSH LEVANA

Women: Kiddush Levana

For women and [kiddush levana](#), see [Kiddush Levana: Women](#).

WOMEN: SAYING BLESSING FOR OTHERS

Women: Saying a Blessing for Someone Else

For women and saying a blessing for someone else, see [Blessings: Saying for Someone Else](#).

WOMEN: SHEHECHEYANU

SheHecheyanu: General Rules

For general rules of [she'hecheyanu](#), see [SheHecheyanu](#).

SheHecheyanu by Women

For items over which especially women say [she'hecheyanu](#), see [Items on Which Women Say SheHecheyanu](#)

WOMEN: HOLIDAYS

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVALS: GENERAL RULES

WOMEN: STARTING JEWISH FESTIVALS

Women: Starting Jewish Festivals

For when women start [Jewish festivals](#), or more on women's lighting [Jewish festival](#) candles, see:

[Jewish Festivals](#): When Women Start: Candle-Lighting or Sunset

[Jewish Festivals](#): Candles: When To Light

[Jewish Festivals](#): Candles: Lighting before Blessing

[Jewish Festivals](#): [Mincha](#) Before

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVAL KIDDUSH

Women: Who May Make Kiddush

For women's obligation to say or hear [Jewish festival](#) morning [kiddush](#), see [Jewish Festivals: Kiddush: Who May Make](#).

Women: Minimum Prayer before Jewish Festival Kiddush

For women and minimum prayer before eating prior to [Jewish festival kiddush](#), see [Women and Minimum Prayer before \[Jewish Festival Kiddush\]\(#\)](#).

WOMEN: MAKEUP ON JEWISH FESTIVALS

Women: Makeup on Jewish Festivals

For women and applying makeup on [Jewish Festivals](#), see [Jewish Festivals: Makeup](#).

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVAL HAVDALA

Women: Jewish Festival Havdala

For women and saying/hearing [Jewish festival havdala](#), see [Baruch HaMavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol To Do \[Melacha\]\(#\)](#).

WOMEN: PASSOVER

Women: Drinking Wine at Seder

For women and drinking wine at [seder](#), see [Everyone Must Drink at \[Seder\]\(#\)](#).

Women: Leaning at Seder

For women and leaning at the [seder](#), see [Leaning to the Left](#).

WOMEN: ROSH HASHANA

Women: Hearing Shofar

For women and hearing [shofar](#), see [Rosh Hashana: How Many \[Shofar\]\(#\) Blasts To Hear](#).

Women: Blowing Shofar

For women and blowing [shofar](#), see [Woman Blowing \[Shofar\]\(#\)](#).

WOMEN: SUKKOT

Women: Lulav

For Women and Lulav, see Lulav: Who Should Bless: Women.

Women: Sukka

For Women and Sukka, see Women: Eating Outside the Sukka.

WOMEN: YOM KIPPUR

Women: When the Yom Kippur Fast Starts

For women and when the Yom Kippur fast starts, see Yom Kippur: When To Start.

WOMEN: CHOL HAMOED

Women: Cutting Nails on Chol HaMoed

For women and cutting nails on chol ha'moed, see Chol HaMoed: Cutting Nails.

WOMEN: RABBINIC HOLIDAYS

WOMEN: CHANUKA

Women: Chanuka

For women and obligation to light Chanuka candles, see:

Chanuka: Candles: Obligation for Women To Light

Chanuka: Candles: Wife May Light for Husband

WOMEN: COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT)

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT)

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT): EXEMPTIONS

Women: Exemption from Time-Dependent Positive Commandments

Women and girls are generally exempt from time-dependent positive commandments (mitzvot), but they may perform these voluntary mitzvot and if they do, they do say the relevant blessings:

- Lulav
- Sukka
- Saying the full shema.

Women and girls may NOT do these time-dependent positive commandments (mitzvot):

- Kiddush levana
- Tefilin
- Tzitzit.

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT): OBLIGATIONS

Women: Time-Based Positive Mitzva Obligations

Although women and girls are generally exempt from time-dependent positive commandments (mitzvot), they may do some mitzvot for which they are not obligated and it is considered to be virtuous behavior for which they will get a reward. They may say the blessings before each mitzva.

1. These are voluntary mitzvot that women may do:

- Lulav
- Sukka
- Saying the full shema.

2. Women and girls MAY NOT wear tefilin.

3. Women traditionally do not:

- Say tachanun.
- Wear talit or tzitzit (talit katan).
- Study gemara.
- Say kiddush levana or birkat ha'chama.

But these are not forbidden.

Women: Time-Based Positive Commandments/Mitzvot: Obligations

In addition to prayer obligations (see [Women: Minimal Prayer](#)), women and girls 12 years old and up are required to keep these time-dependent positive commandments, among others:

- Candle-lighting for Chanuka (see [Chanuka: Candles: Who Should Light](#))
- Candle-lighting for Shabbat, Jewish festivals, Rosh Hashana, and Yom Kippur.
- Haydala (say or hear) after Shabbat, Jewish festivals, Rosh Hashana, and Yom Kippur.
- Kiddush (say or hear) on the first night (or first two nights outside Eretz Yisrael) of every Jewish festival, and also the next morning.
- Passover (all commandments, including eating matza at the Passover seder).

NOTE Because she must eat matza, she must therefore say birkat ha'mazon afterward (so if a woman omits ya'ale v'yavo in birkat ha'mazon at the seder, she must repeat birkat ha'mazon!).

- Megila on Purim.
- Shabbat (For why women must keep time-dependent, positive commandments on Shabbat, see [Introduction to Shabbat](#))
- Shofar on Rosh Hashana.

NOTE Jewish women universally accepted upon themselves to hear shofar on Rosh Hashana, but they only need to hear 30 blasts.

- Hearing the reading of Parashat Zachor.

Women: Mayim Achronim

See [Birkat HaMazon: Mayim Achronim](#).

WOMEN: MOURNING

WOMEN: KRI'A

Women: Kri'a

For women and kri'a, see [Women and Kri'a](#).

WOMEN: PUBLIC CONSOLATION (NICHUM AVEILIM)

Women: Public Consolation (Nichum Aveilim)

For women and public consolation (*nichum aveilim*), see [Women and Public Consolation after Kabbalat Shabbat](#).

WOMEN: SHOVELING

Women: Shoveling

For women and shoveling at the funeral, see [Who Shovels](#).

WOMEN: SHROUDS

Women: Shrouds

For women and shrouds, see [Shrouds](#), [Hat](#), [Robe](#).

WOMEN: NON-INTIMATE CONTACT AND YICHUD

Women: Non-Intimate Contact/Yichud

For women and non-intimate contact, see [Contact \(*Negia*\)](#).

For women and being alone with men, see [Yichud](#).

WOMEN: PRAYER

WOMEN: BOWING

Women: Bowing

For women and bowing, see [Bowing: Women](#).

WOMEN: KADDISH

Woman: Kaddish

See [Kaddish: Who Should Say: Women](#).

WOMEN: YA'ALEH V'YAVO

Women: Ya'aleh V'Yavo

If a girl age 12 or up or a woman forgets to say *ya'aleh v'yavo* for the *Jewish festival* or *Rosh Chodesh amida*, she must repeat the prayer. She does not repeat *ya'aleh v'yavo* in any *birkat ha'mazon* except the two *seder* nights.

WOMEN: MINIMUM TO PRAY

Women: Minimum to Pray

The minimum amount of prayer that women and girls 12 years old and up must say varies according to several opinions:

- Opinion that [RMH](#) approves of:
 - *Birchot ha'shachar* (from *al netilat yadaim*--to *u'maflee la'asot*)
 - *Birchot haTorah* (from *la'asok b'divrei Torah*--to *notein haTorah*)
 - *Yevarechecha/Eilu divarim she'ein/Eilu divarim she'adam*
 - *Elohai neshama*

- *Asher natan 'sechvi... gomel chasadim tovim l'amo Yisrael*
- *Shema* (first line of *shema* plus *Baruch shem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed*)
- If they choose to say the morning *amida*, they should precede it with *emet, v'yatziv* until *ga'al yisrael*.

- *Ramban*: Women should say at least the *amida* of *shacharit* and of *mincha*.
- Another opinion: Women must say some prayer every day (but it may be any type of prayer, not only the fixed prayer services).
- Another opinion: Women do not need to say the *amida* and *emet v'yatziv* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals* (that is, whenever we are not asking for anything).
- Women who have small children who require the mother's constant attention should not say any prayers except for *birchot ha'shachar* and *birchot haTorah*.

For more on women and the *shema*, see [Women and *Shema* in *Shacharit*](#).

WOMEN: ROOM DIVIDER/MECHITZA

Women: Room Divider/Mechitza

For women and room divider/*mechitza*, see [Where To Pray: Distracting People/*Mechitza*](#).

WOMEN: SAVING A LIFE (PIKUACH NEFESH)

Women: Saving a Life (Pikuach Nefesh): Driving to Hospital To Give Birth

See [Saving a Life \(*Pikuach Nefesh*\)](#).

WOMEN: SHABBAT

Women: When Shabbat Starts for Women

For when *Shabbat* starts for women, see [Women Start *Shabbat*: Candle-Lighting or Sunset](#).

Women: When To Light Shabbat Candles

For delaying *Shabbat* candle lighting until sunset, see [Shabbat: Candles: When To Light](#).

Women: How Many Shabbat Candles To Light

For how many *Shabbat* candles wives should light, see [Shabbat Candles: How Many To Light](#).

Women: Where To Light Shabbat Candles

For where women should light *Shabbat* candles, see [Shabbat: Candles: Where To Light](#).

Women: Who Lights Shabbat Candles

For priority order of family members to light *Shabbat* candles, see [Shabbat: Candles: Who Lights](#).

Women: How To Bless over Shabbat Candles

For questions about the *Shabbat* candle lighting blessing, see [Shabbat: Candles: How To Do Blessing: Women](#).

Women: When To Make Kiddush after Candle Lighting

For when women can make *kiddush* after Friday night candle lighting, see [Shabbat: Candles: When To Light](#).

Women: Making Kiddush

For women's obligation to make or hear *Shabbat kiddush*, see [Shabbat: Kiddush: Who May Make](#).

Women: Minimum Prayer before Saying Shabbat Kiddush

For women's minimum obligation to pray before saying Shabbat morning kiddush and eating, see [Women and Minimum Prayer before Saying Shabbat Kiddush](#).

Women: Shabbat and Makeup

For women and makeup on Shabbat, see [Shabbat: Makeup](#).

WOMEN: SHAVING

Women: Shaving

For women and shaving, see

[Women and Razor Blades](#)

[When Haircuts and Shaving Are Forbidden](#)

WOMEN: SINGING

Women: Singing with Men or When Men Present

Rabbi Heinemann's view is that women should not sing zmirot, Hallel, songs in the Hagada, and other prayers with men or when men are present, but he notes that there are other major opinions that say it is permitted.

Women: Humming

A girl or woman may hum in the presence of men and this does not violate the prohibition against singing in front of men (kol isha).

WOMEN: SOFER

Women: Sofer

For Women and Sofer, see [Sofer: Woman](#).

WOMEN: STANDING FOR ELDERLY

Women: Standing for Elderly

For women and standing for the elderly, see [Standing for the Elderly](#).

WOMEN: STUDY

WHAT TO TEACH GIRLS

What To Teach Girls

Girls should be taught all halachot relevant to girls and women, including blessings, and should be taught whatever will increase their awe of Hashem (yir'at shamayim).

WOMEN: TORAH SCROLL

Women Reading from Torah Scroll

Women may read from the Torah scroll when no men are around. They may say only the first blessing over the Torah and only if they forgot to say that blessing in the morning. They may not say the second blessing.

Women Dancing with Torah Scroll

Women should not dance with a Torah scroll.

WOMEN: WHAT TO STUDY

Minimum Torah Study for Women

For women and minimum requirements for Torah study, see [Introduction to Torah Study](#).

Women: Torah or Tehillim

If a woman can either study Torah or say Tehilim (*Psalms*; recited as prayers), the priority is for her to study any halachot that she needs to observe before saying Tehilim or other prayers.

NOTE However, for the purposes of prayer, saying Tehilim is more important than “saying” (or reading) other parts of Tanach.

Women: Studying Talmud

Women are not prohibited from learning Talmud, but men should not teach them.

NOTE Since women are not required to study Talmud, they do not make a siyum if they complete studying any part.

Women: Blessings over Torah

Women are required to say the blessings over the Torah (*birchot haTorah*) before studying Torah or before praying.

WOMEN: WITNESSES

Women: Witnesses

For women and witnesses, see [Witnesses: Women in Jewish Courts](#).