EATING BEFORE HAVDALA

Eating/Drinking before Havdala

You should not eat or drink from sunset (or from the time you finish *se'uda shlishit*) until after *havdala*, but drinking water during that time period is not forbidden by *halacha*.

Birkat HaMazon Additions for Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh Saturday Night

SITUATION *Rosh Chodesh* begins on Saturday night. You started *se'uda shlishit* and continued to eat--including eating at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread after dark. It is time for *birkat ha'mazon*.

WHAT TO DO Say *birkat ha'mazon* additions for *Shabbat* (*shir ha'ma'alot*, *retzei*, *migdol yeshuot*) AND any others for the next day (such as *ya'aleh v'yavo* for *Rosh Chodesh)*.

NOTE If you did not eat at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread after dark, only say the *birkat ha'mazon* additions for *Shabbat*.

Forgetting Ata Chonantanu

If you forgot to say *ata chonantanu* after *Shabbat (*or *Jewish festivals*), you do not need to repeat the *amida*. But, if you then ate food before saying *havdala*, you must repeat the *amida* including *ata chonantanu*.

© Copyright 2026 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com