JEWISH FESTIVALS: FOOD PREPARATION

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH FESTIVALS: FOOD PREPARATION

Introduction to Jewish Festivals and Food Preparation

Food preparation forbidden on *Jewish festivals* includes these forbidden *melachot*:

- Preparing soil for planting (*choreish*)
- Causing plants to grow (*zorei'a*)
- Harvesting (*kotzeir*)
- Gathering (*mi'ameir*)
- Threshing (*dash;* such as milking a cow into clean container or squeezing juice for drinking)
- Winnowing (*zoreh*)
- Selecting (*boreir)* (for exceptions, see Introduction to *Jewish Festivals*: Selecting/*Boreir*)
- Grinding (*tochein) (*Grinding may be OK with a *shinu'i*; ask a *rabbi* for specific cases)
- Sifting *(merakeid).*

However, you may do all food preparation necessary for baking or cooking food for that day--from kneading dough (kneading, or *lash)* to cooking and baking (*ofeh*) from an existing flame.

NOTE You may not use electric appliances to knead dough and you may not turn on an electric oven.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CHECKING FOR BUGS

Checking Product for Bugs on Jewish Festivals

You may check produce for bugs on *Jewish festivals*. You may remove the bug but not by hand.

EXAMPLE You may rinse a bug off produce.

NOTE You may not kill bugs on *Jewish festivals* (or *Shabbat*). To do something that is certain to kill the bug is forbidden; if might not kill the bug, it is OK.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COOKING

JEWISH FESTIVALS: EXISTING FLAME

Jewish Festivals: Cooking from an Existing Flame

You may cook food on all *Jewish festivals* (except *Yom Kippur* or when they coincide with *Shabbat*) as long as the fire, oven, or other cooking appliance:

- Has been on since before the *Jewish festival* began, OR
- Is lit during the *Jewish festival* from an existing flame, such as from a pilot light or *yahrzeit* candle lit before the *Jewish festival* began.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ASKING NON-JEW TO TURN ON A STOVE OR OVEN

Jewish Festivals: Asking Non-Jew To Turn on a Stove or Oven

You may directly ask a non-Jew to turn on a stove or oven for you.

NOTE Be careful about *bishul akum* problems if a non-Jew will then be cooking food for Jews on that stove or oven.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ADJUSTING STOVE/OVEN TEMPERATURE CONTROLS

JEWISH FESTIVALS: DIGITAL-DISPLAY DEVICES

Digital-Display Ovens and Stoves on Jewish Festivals

You may not adjust digital-display ovens and stoves (and also refrigerators or other electronic devices) on *Jewish festivals* unless they were designed for *Jewish festival* use.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: RAISING/LOWERING FLAMES/HEAT

Jewish Festivals: Raising Flames/Heat

On *Jewish festivals*, you may adjust (analog-only) temperature controls of gas and electric stoves and ovens UP when the heating element is ON, as verified by an indicator light or some other means.

Jewish Festivals: Lowering Flames/Heat

On *Jewish festivals*, you may adjust (analog-only) temperature controls of gas and electric stoves and ovens DOWN but ONLY to prevent the food's getting overcooked or burnt (not for convenience or to save money). One permitted way to lower a burner temperature is to put a pot of water on the burner and lower the flame so the water does not boil away (but you must use some of the heated water during the holiday!).

NOTE For an electric stove or oven, you may only adjust the temperature DOWN when the heating element is OFF, as shown by an indicator light.

NOTE An analog control used on *Jewish festivals* must allow continuous changes to the temperature: if an analog control has discreet settings, it may not be used on *Jewish festivals*!

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COOKING ON FIRST DAY FOR SECOND DAY

Jewish Festivals: Cooking on First Day for Second Day

You may not cook on the first day of a *Jewish festival* for the second day**.** But you may cook enough food for both days in the same pot, even *l'chatchila* (but not *bein ha'shmashot*). You must eat at least a normal-sized portion before sunset on the first *Jewish festival* day.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ERUV TAVSHILIN

Jewish Festivals: Personal Eruv Tavshilin

One person per household should make an *eruv tavshilin* in order to allow cooking on a *Jewish festival* for the next day, if the next day is *Shabbat*. The person sets aside something cooked and something baked and says a formula (which can be found in most *siddurs)*.

NOTE An *eruv tavshilin* made by one person covers everyone in that household, including guests staying over for that *Jewish festival*--even if he or she did not intend it to cover anyone else.

Jewish Festivals: Eating Eruv Tavshilin Food

You are not required to eat food set aside for an *eruv tavshilin*, but the custom is to eat it for *se'uda shlishit*.

Jewish Festivals: Rabbi's Eruv Tavshilin

If you forgot to make an *eruv tavshilin*, you may rely on the *eruv tavshilin* said by the local *rabbi* only once in your lifetime.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FREEZING

Jewish Festivals: Making Ice Cubes

You may fill an ice cube tray on *Jewish festivals* if you intend to use the ice cubes on the same day.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: GRINDING

Grinding on Jewish Festivals: How Finely You May Grind

You may not grind, grate, or even finely chop or dice food on *Jewish festivals*. You may not use a garlic press on *Jewish festivals*.

The minimum size before violating the *melacha* of *tochein* varies by the type of food. The resulting pieces must be somewhat larger than the size you would normally use.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SALTING

Jewish Festivals: Salting Food

You may not salt certain foods, whether cooked or raw, on *Jewish festivals* if the:

- Foods have a shell, such as corn kernels (on or off of the cob), beans, peas;
- Salt has not been heated previously (such as during salt processing) and the food you are salting is hot (over 120° F, or 49° C); or
- Salt will materially change the flavor of the food, especially if it causes a chemical change, as when salting cut or chopped onions or salting tomatoes.

  NOTE You may dip the tomato or other food into salt using your hand as long as you eat the food immediately afterwards.

NOTE If the food has oil in it, you may add salt even if the food contains onions or has a shell.

NOTE Even a thin layer of oil will exempt the salt.

NOTE You may pour salt into a liquid or a liquid onto salt, but you may not make a saturated salt solution on *Jewish festivals*.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SELECTING/BOREIR

Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Selecting/Boreir

Issues of *boreir* are almost always *d'oraita*, not *d'rabanan*, and therefore we are stringent in applying restrictions concerning *boreir*.

Unlike on *Shabbat* (when you must remove some good along with the bad so as not to violate the *melacha* of *boreir*), on *Jewish festivals* you may remove the bad from the good if it is easier to take the undesired food from the desired food.

Desired from Undesired

You may select desired food from undesired (or inedible) substances if you follow these two rules:

1. **Cannot Use Specialized Separating Utensil**
   Don't use a utensil--such as a slotted spoon, peeler, or sieve--that is specialized for separating:

   - Food from other food, or
   - Food from other substances.

     NOTE You may remove dirt from a carrot's surface by scraping the peel with a knife (a tool not specialized for separating food), but not by using a peeler.

     EXCEPTION As on *Shabbat*, an action necessary to eat a food normally (*derech achila*) does not violate the prohibition of *boreir*. So you may peel a food that is normally separated from its peel or shell in order to be eaten, as long as you do not use a specialized instrument to do so.

EXAMPLES

- You may peel an orange by hand, with or without a knife.
- You may remove the shells from peanuts by hand.
- You may remove the shell from a hard-boiled egg by hand.

2. **Do This Shortly before You Eat the Food**
   Prepare the food soon before it will be eaten.

NOTE You may prepare the food as much in advance as you would normally prepare a meal which you will eat--even as much as several hours.

EXAMPLES

On *Jewish festivals*, you may:

- Remove fish bones from fish while you are eating the fish or just before eating it.
- Cut open a melon such as a cantaloupe and remove any seeds normally.

Jewish Festivals: Separating Good Food from Bad in Your Mouth

You may separate food inside your mouth while eating, even if you remove the bad from the good, on *Jewish festivals* (it is not *boreir*.)

Jewish Festivals: Salt Shaker with Rice

You may not, due to *boreir*, use a salt shaker into which rice has been added (in order to keep the salt dry).

Jewish Festivals: Lemon Seeds

You may remove lemon seeds (pits) from food, such as after you have squeezed out some lemon juice, but not with a specialized utensil such as a sieve or slotted spoon.

Jewish Festivals: Washing-Draining Food

You may wash and drain olives and other canned fruits and vegetables on *Jewish festivals* (it is not *boreir* unless the food in the can is dirty).

Jewish Festivals: Dropping Unwanted Food

When you have food mixed with non-desired substances, you may remove the non-desired ones by picking up the entire mixture and letting the non-desired elements fall away**.**

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SEPARATING CHALLA

Jewish Festivals: Challa Not Separated before Festival

On *Jewish festivals*, you may not separate *challa* from loaves baked before the festival, as follows:

- In *Eretz Yisrael*, you may not eat bread from which *challa* was not separated if required (for more details, see Separating the *Challa* Portion and *Challa* Separation) until after the *Jewish festival* ends and you have separated the *challa*.
- Outside *Eretz Yisrael*, you may:
  - Leave one loaf until after the *Jewish festival,*
  - Eat as much as you want of the remaining loaves, and then
  - Separate the *challa* from the loaf after *havdala.*

NOTE If the bread was baked on a *Jewish festival*, you may separate *challa* on the *Jewish festival*.
NOTE This is true even for loaves that came from dough of more than 2.5 lbs of flour.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SQUEEZING JUICE

Jewish Festivals: Squeezing a Lemon

As on *Shabbat*, on *Jewish festivals* you may squeeze a lemon (or other fruit) onto solid food—or mostly solid, even wet, food--that you will eat right away, but not into a container or into a liquid.

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