PASSOVER: SEARCHING FOR CHAMETZ (BEDIKAT CHAMETZ)

Passover Chametz Search: Who May Search

One member of each house must search for any *chametz* (*bedikat chametz*) on behalf of the entire household. This may be a *man*, woman, or even a minor child, as long as he or she is sufficiently responsible to conduct the search in all of the details.

Passover Chametz Search: When To Search

Search your house for any leavened food or crumbs the night before first *seder* night. If the first *seder* begins Saturday night, you must search for *chametz* on Thursday night.

Passover Chametz Search: Where To Search

You must look for *chametz* (leavened foods) in any place where food might have been carried. If you have small children, you must search your entire house. However, you do not need to search in any place where no food was brought, nor in any closets that will be locked during *Passover* and the leavened food in them sold.

Passover Chametz Search: Whether To Search

If you are staying in someone else's house for *Passover* and the owner is away for the holiday, you must do *bedikat chametz* for the house--even if the owner has not been there for more than 30 days and even if you will not be eating in that house. The same rule applies for any place that you have rented for any part of *Passover* and that does not have a resident owner who has done the *bedika* there.

EXCEPTION If you are staying in a hotel or other accommodation that is thoroughly cleaned before *Passover*, you do not need to do *bedika chametz*.

Passover Chametz Search: Putting Out Chametz To Find

Before beginning the official *chametz* search, put out 10 pieces of *chametz* wrapped to prevent crumbs from falling off.

NOTE The entire procedure of putting out *chametz* is a non-binding custom.

Passover Chametz Search: Which Blessing To Say

Before searching for *chametz*, say the blessing *al bi'ur chametz*.

Passover Chametz Search: How To Search

While the search for *chametz* is traditionally done by candlelight, you may use a flashlight. You should not use a normal room light.

REASON The idea is to use a directional light source, which will highlight any *chametz*.

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