

SHABBAT: CONCLUSION

SATURDAY EVENING BEFORE HAVDALA

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.

WHEN SHABBAT ENDS/MOTZA'EI SHABBAT

Shabbat Ends at Dark

You may not end Shabbat before dark (appearance of three medium-size stars--tzeit ha'kochavim).

When Is Dark

Shabbat (and Jewish festivals) ends at "dark": when three medium-sized stars are visible overhead.

NOTE To find medium-sized stars, look for stars to appear in the west—those will be large stars. When large stars appear in the west, medium-sized stars should be visible overhead.

If you are in a place where the sun sets but the sky will not get dark any time that evening, ask a rabbi what to do.

How Long between Sunset and Dark

Some communities end Shabbat 42 minutes after sunset, which is when some rabbis in New York observed that it gets dark. At other latitudes, the interval may vary considerably, from shorter toward the equator or much longer toward the poles.

NOTE In New York, dark is at 45 minutes after sunset in the winter and 50 minutes in the summer, according to Rav Moshe Feinstein. Some people wait 72 minutes after sunset before doing any melacha.

SAYING BARUCH HAMAVDIL

Baruch HaMavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol To Do Melacha

After it is dark, say Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol (just those words--not God's name or any of the standard words used in blessings!) if you want to end Shabbat and do weekday activities (melachot) before saying ma'ariv's amida or havdala.

REASON This fulfills the commandment of “*zachor*” for *Shabbat* and allows you to do *melacha*.
NOTE But it does not allow you to eat or drink, once you have finished *se'uda shlishit*, until you hear or say *havdala*.

Baruch HaMavdil... and Birkat HaMazon at Third Meal

SITUATION You washed your hands, said *ha'motzi*, were eating your meal (this could be *se'uda shlishit* or even a fourth meal) and it is now dark. You want to do *melacha*.

WHAT TO DO If you have not yet finished *se'uda shlishit*, saying Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol after dark on Saturday night does not affect the *Shabbat* additions you will then say in birkat ha'mazon. So, you may say Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol and do *melacha*, and then continue to eat your meal or say birkat ha'mazon INCLUDING the two *Shabbat* additions of *retzei* and ha'rachaman hu yanchileinu yom she'kulo *Shabbat* u'menucha l'chaye'i ha'olamim.

HAVDALA

INTRODUCTION TO HAVDALA

Introduction to Havdala

Havdala is said after *Shabbat*, *Jewish festivals*, *Rosh Hashana*, and *Yom Kippur*. *Shabbat havdala* is more extensive than after *Yom Kippur* and *Jewish festivals*.

Shabbat havdala consists of:

1. **Beverage:** Wine, Grape Juice, or *Chamar Medina*
Wine is always the preferred beverage for all havdalas because it is prestigious.
2. **Spices**
The extra soul we are given on *Shabbat* leaves after *Shabbat* is over, so we sniff a pleasant odor to cover for that loss.
3. **Flame**
The *Shabbat havdala* flame commemorates that *Adam HaRishon* (the first *man*) created fire after the first *Shabbat*.

HAVDALA: REQUIREMENTS

To Fulfill Havdala Requirements

To fulfill the requirement for *havdala*, each person (not only the *mevareich*) should:

- Hear the blessing on wine;
- Smell the spices; and
- See the flame.

NOTE If you do not do so when hearing *havdala*, you should smell a spice and see a flame later and then say those blessings at that time.

HAVDALA: WHEN TO SAY

When To Say Havdala

B'di'avad, *havdala* after *Shabbat* may be said day or night until Tuesday at sunset.

NOTE From Sunday at daybreak on, use only the wine, not the candle or spices, and don't say the first paragraph (hinei El yeshu'ati...).

Waking Up for Ma'ariv and Havdala...

If you went to sleep before sunset on Saturday and planned to wake up for ma'ariv, yet slept through the night...:

- Say shacharit Sunday morning;
- Repeat the amida for tashlumin; then
- Make havdala.

NOTE If you did not intend to wake up for ma'ariv, don't say tashlumin at all.

HAVDALA: WHO SHOULD MAKE/HEAR

Who Must Hear or Make Havdala

Men and boys older than 13 years old and women and girls older than 12 years must each hear or say havdala for themselves.

Who May Make Havdala

Any Jew, male (13 years old or more) or female (12 years old or more), may say havdala for himself or herself and for anyone else.

NOTE The husband may say havdala for his wife and children even if he fulfilled his personal havdala requirement at the synagogue.

NOTE There is a difference of opinion as to whether women are required to say the blessing on fire, but the common practice is for women to say it. If a woman says havdala for a man, he must still say borei me'orei ha'eish for himself.

HAVDALA: BEVERAGE

Which Havdala Beverage

Wine or grape juice is the preferred beverage for havdala, but any common beverage (chamar medina) that is drunk for social reasons is acceptable.

NOTE Wine from birkat ha'mazon of se'uda shlishit may be used for havdala EXCEPT if the meal was a sheva brachot and as long as the wine was not drunk from at the meal.

How To Fill the Havdala Cup

For havdala, pour at least a revi'it (4 fl. oz., or 119 ml) for enough wine (or other beverage being used) to overflow the cup. This is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.

REASON Doing so is a symbol of blessing (siman bracha) that we are so rich that the wine or other drink that we spill is not important. Don't overflow your cup if you are using wine from a shmita year!

How To Hold the Havdala Cup (and Spices)

Hold the havdala wine (or other beverage) in right hand when saying the beverage blessing (then switch and hold the spices in the right hand for the spices blessing).

How Much Havdala Beverage To Drink

To be able to say the after-blessing, you must drink at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml) from the havdala cup within 30 seconds.

If you drink only 2 fl. oz. (59 ml), you will fulfill the commandment of havdala but you will not be able to say any after-blessing.

Havdala: Who Drinks the Beverage

For men: No one should drink the havdala beverage except the person saying havdala. This is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.

For women: This custom does NOT apply to women. Women who say havdala for themselves may give their havdala beverage to someone else to drink.

NOTE During the Nine Days, the person saying havdala may drink the wine.

Havdala Beverage: Standing or Sitting

Sitting or standing while drinking wine from havdala (or kiddush) is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.

Drops of Havdala Wine above Eyes or in Pockets

Putting drops of havdala wine above your eyes or in your pockets is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.

HAVDALA: SPICES (BESAMIM)

Havdala Spices Only on Saturday Night

The only havdala for which we use spices and candle is Saturday night. After Yom Kippur, just use wine and a candle, see Yom Kippur: Ending: Havdala. See also How To Hold the Havdala Cup (and Spices).

What To Use for Havdala

You may use any nice-smelling substance for havdala “besamim,” not just spices; but the source of the scent must be natural. There is no priority for using cinnamon.

NOTE For besamim, you may scratch a lemon or orange or other aromatic fruit and sniff the fruit itself (but not your hand). However, say the normal havdala blessing, borei minei v'samim, instead of the normal blessing for smelling fruits (ha'notein rei'ach tov ba'peiros).

How Many Spices To Use for Havdala

Only one spice is needed for the spice blessing for havdala, even though the blessing uses the term minei, which is plural.

How To Hold the Spices

For how to hold the spices, see How To Hold the Havdala Cup (and Spices)

HAVDALA: CANDLE

Using Two Wicks To Fulfill Borei Me'orei HaEish

To fulfill the havdala candle blessing borei me'orei ha'eish (“me'orei” is plural and requires more than one flame), you must use a candle with at least two wicks or any two other objects with a flame.

EXAMPLES

- Two single-wick candles.
- Two matches.
- One match and one candle.

Using a Light Bulb for Havdala

A clear incandescent light bulb may be used for havdala if necessary and is considered to be multiple wicks.

Holding Hands Up to the Light

Holding fingers toward the havdala candle flame is a non-binding custom.

NOTE We hold up our hands to the light because the minimum amount of light needed to fulfill the mitzva of the candle is to be able to see the difference between the skin of one's hand and one's fingernail. Doing so also creates shadows of our fingers on the palm of our hands, illustrating the bein or l'choshech (between light and darkness) segment of the havdala prayer. There are also kabbalistic

reasons.

HAVDALA: FINAL BLESSING

Havdala: Final Blessing

The normal havdala ending blessing is Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'chol. When Saturday night is a Jewish festival, say instead Baruch ha'mavdil bein kodesh l'kodesh.