# 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 *rabbi*s 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*.

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