

WOMEN (AND GIRLS)

WOMEN: ATTIRE

Women's Dress Code

For women's dress code, see individual listings under ATTIRE:

[Introduction to Attire](#)

[Attire: Blessings/Torah/Prayer](#)

[Attire: Women: Tzni'ut](#)

[Attire: Married Women: Head Covering \(Kisui Rosh\)](#)

WOMEN: BET DIN

Women as Members of Bet Din

Women may not be members of a *bet din*.

WOMEN: BLESSINGS

WOMEN: BIRKAT HAMAZON

Women: Repeating Birkat HaMazon

For women and repeating *birkat ha'mazon*, see [Birkat HaMazon: When To Repeat If Forgot Additions](#).

Women: Mezuman

For women's *mezuman*, see [Birkat HaMazon: Women's Mezuman and Minyan](#).

WOMEN: HAGOMEL

Women: HaGomel

For women and *ha'gomel* blessing, see [Women and HaGomel](#).

WOMEN: KADDISH

Women: Kaddish

For women and *kaddish*, see [Kaddish: Who Should Say: Women](#).

WOMEN: KIDDUSH LEVANA

Women: Kiddush Levana

For women and *kiddush levana*, see [Kiddush Levana: Women](#).

WOMEN: SAYING BLESSING FOR OTHERS

Women: Saying a Blessing for Someone Else

For women and saying a blessing for someone else, see [Blessings: Saying for Someone Else](#).

WOMEN: SHEHECHEYANU

SheHecheyanu: General Rules

For general rules of *she'hecheyanu*, see [SheHecheyanu](#).

SheHecheyanu by Women

For items over which especially women say she'hecheyanu, see [Items on Which Women Say SheHecheyanu](#)

WOMEN: HOLIDAYS

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVALS: GENERAL RULES

WOMEN: STARTING JEWISH FESTIVALS

Women: Starting Jewish Festivals

For when women start Jewish festivals, or more on women's lighting Jewish festival candles, see:

Jewish Festivals: [When Women Start: Candle-Lighting or Sunset](#)

Jewish Festivals: [Candles: When To Light](#)

Jewish Festivals: [Candles: Lighting before Blessing](#)

Jewish Festivals: [Mincha Before](#)

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVAL KIDDUSH

Women: Who May Make Kiddush

For women's obligation to say or hear Jewish festival morning kiddush, see [Jewish Festivals: Kiddush: Who May Make](#).

Women: Minimum Prayer before Jewish Festival Kiddush

For women and minimum prayer before eating prior to Jewish festival kiddush, see [Women and Minimum Prayer before Jewish Festival Kiddush](#).

WOMEN: MAKEUP ON JEWISH FESTIVALS

Women: Makeup on Jewish Festivals

For women and applying makeup on Jewish Festivals, see [Jewish Festivals: Makeup](#).

WOMEN: JEWISH FESTIVAL HAVDALA

Women: Jewish Festival Havdala

For women and saying/hearing Jewish festival havdala, see [Baruch HaMavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol To Do Melacha](#).

WOMEN: PASSOVER

Women: Drinking Wine at Seder

For women and drinking wine at seder, see [Everyone Must Drink at Seder](#).

Women: Leaning at Seder

For women and leaning at the seder, see [Leaning to the Left](#).

WOMEN: ROSH HASHANA

Women: Hearing Shofar

For women and hearing shofar, see [Rosh Hashana: How Many Shofar Blasts To Hear](#).

Women: Blowing Shofar

For women and blowing shofar, see [Woman Blowing Shofar](#).

WOMEN: SUKKOT

Women: Lulav

For Women and Lulav, see Lulav: Who Should Bless: Women.

Women: Sukka

For Women and Sukka, see Women: Eating Outside the Sukka.

WOMEN: YOM KIPPUR

Women: When the Yom Kippur Fast Starts

For women and when the Yom Kippur fast starts, see Yom Kippur: When To Start.

WOMEN: CHOL HAMOED

Women: Cutting Nails on Chol HaMoed

For women and cutting nails on chol ha'moed, see Chol HaMoed: Cutting Nails.

WOMEN: RABBINIC HOLIDAYS

WOMEN: CHANUKA

Women: Chanuka

For women and obligation to light Chanuka candles, see:

Chanuka: Candles: Obligation for Women To Light

Chanuka: Candles: Wife May Light for Husband

WOMEN: COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT)

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT)

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT): EXEMPTIONS

Women: Exemption from Time-Dependent Positive Commandments

Women and girls are generally exempt from time-dependent positive commandments (mitzvot), but they may perform these voluntary mitzvot and if they do, they do say the relevant blessings:

- Lulav
- Sukka
- Saying the full shema.

Women and girls may NOT do these time-dependent positive commandments (mitzvot):

- Kiddush levana
- Tefilin
- Tzitzit.

WOMEN: TIME-BASED POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT): OBLIGATIONS

Women: Time-Based Positive Mitzva Obligations

Although women and girls are generally exempt from time-dependent positive commandments (*mitzvot*), they may do some *mitzvot* for which they are not obligated and it is considered to be virtuous behavior for which they will get a reward. They may say the blessings before each *mitzva*.

1. These are voluntary *mitzvot* that women may do:

- *Lulav*
- *Sukka*
- Saying the full *shema*.

2. Women and girls MAY NOT wear *tefilin*.

3. Women traditionally do not:

- Say *tachanun*.
- Wear *talit* or *tzitzit* (*talit katan*).
- Study *gemara*.
- Say *kiddush levana* or *birkat ha'chama*.

But these are not forbidden.

Women: Time-Based Positive Commandments/Mitzvot: Obligations

In addition to prayer obligations (see [Women: Minimal Prayer](#)), women and girls 12 years old and up are required to keep these time-dependent positive commandments, among others:

- Candle-lighting for *Chanuka* (see [Chanuka: Candles: Who Should Light](#))
- Candle-lighting for *Shabbat*, *Jewish festivals*, *Rosh Hashana*, and *Yom Kippur*.
- *Havdala* (say or hear) after *Shabbat*, *Jewish festivals*, *Rosh Hashana*, and *Yom Kippur*.
- *Kiddush* (say or hear) on the first night (or first two nights outside *Eretz Yisrael*) of every *Jewish festival*, and also the next morning.
- *Passover* (all commandments, including eating *matza* at the *Passover seder*).

NOTE Because she must eat *matza*, she must therefore say *birkat ha'mazon* afterward (so if a woman omits *ya'ale v'yavo* in *birkat ha'mazon* at the *seder*, she must repeat *birkat ha'mazon*!).

- *Megila* on *Purim*.
- *Shabbat* (For why women must keep time-dependent, positive commandments on *Shabbat*, see [Introduction to Shabbat](#))
- *Shofar* on *Rosh Hashana*.

NOTE Jewish women universally accepted upon themselves to hear *shofar* on *Rosh Hashana*, but they only need to hear 30 blasts.

- Hearing the reading of Parashat *Zachor*.

Women: Mayim Achronim

See [Birkat HaMazon: Mayim Achronim](#).

WOMEN: MOURNING

WOMEN: KRI'A

Women: Kri'a

For women and *kri'a*, see [Women and Kri'a](#).

WOMEN: PUBLIC CONSOLATION (NICHUM AVEILIM)

Women: Public Consolation (Nichum Aveilim)

For women and public consolation (*nichum aveilim*), see [Women and Public Consolation after Kabbalat Shabbat](#).

WOMEN: SHOVELING

Women: Shoveling

For women and shoveling at the funeral, see [Who Shovels](#).

WOMEN: SHROUDS

Women: Shrouds

For women and shrouds, see [Shrouds, Hat, Robe](#).

WOMEN: NON-INTIMATE CONTACT AND YICHUD

Women: Non-Intimate Contact/Yichud

For women and non-intimate contact, see [Contact \(Negia\)](#).

For women and being alone with men, see [Yichud](#).

WOMEN: PRAYER

WOMEN: BOWING

Women: Bowing

For women and bowing, see [Bowing: Women](#).

WOMEN: KADDISH

Woman: Kaddish

See [Kaddish: Who Should Say: Women](#).

WOMEN: YA'ALEH V'YAVO

Women: Ya'aleh V'Yavo

If a girl age 12 or up or a woman forgets to say *ya'aleh v'yavo* for the *Jewish festival* or *Rosh Chodesh amida*, she must repeat the prayer. She does not repeat *ya'aleh v'yavo* in any *birkat ha'mazon* except the two *seder* nights.

WOMEN: MINIMUM TO PRAY

Women: Minimum to Pray

The minimum amount of prayer that women and girls 12 years old and up must say varies according to several opinions:

- Opinion that [RMH](#) approves of:
 - [Birchot ha'shachar](#) (from *al netilat yadaim*--to *u'maflee la'asot*)
 - [Birchot haTorah](#) (from *la'asok b'divrei Torah*--to *notein haTorah*)
 - [Yevarechecha/Eilu divarim she'ein/Eilu divarim she'adam](#)
 - [Elohaim neshama](#)

- *Asher natan 'sechvi... gomel chasadim tovim l'amo Yisrael*
 - *Shema* (first line of *shema* plus *Baruch shem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed*)
 - If they choose to say the morning *amida*, they should precede it with *emet, v'yatziv* until *ga'al yisrael*.
- *Ramban*: Women should say at least the *amida* of *shacharit* and of *mincha*.
 - Another opinion: Women must say some prayer every day (but it may be any type of prayer, not only the fixed prayer services).
 - Another opinion: Women do not need to say the *amida* and *emet v'yatziv* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals* (that is, whenever we are not asking for anything).
 - Women who have small children who require the mother's constant attention should not say any prayers except for *birchot ha'shachar* and *birchot haTorah*.

For more on women and the *shema*, see [Women and Shema in Shacharit](#).

WOMEN: ROOM DIVIDER/MECHITZA

Women: Room Divider/Mechitza

For women and room divider/*mechitza*, see [Where To Pray: Distracting People/Mechitza](#).

WOMEN: SAVING A LIFE (PIKUACH NEFESH)

Women: Saving a Life (Pikuach Nefesh): Driving to Hospital To Give Birth

See [Saving a Life \(Pikuach Nefesh\)](#).

WOMEN: SHABBAT

Women: When Shabbat Starts for Women

For when *Shabbat* starts for women, see [Women Start Shabbat: Candle-Lighting or Sunset](#).

Women: When To Light Shabbat Candles

For delaying *Shabbat* candle lighting until sunset, see [Shabbat: Candles: When To Light](#).

Women: How Many Shabbat Candles To Light

For how many *Shabbat* candles wives should light, see [Shabbat Candles: How Many To Light](#).

Women: Where To Light Shabbat Candles

For where women should light *Shabbat* candles, see [Shabbat: Candles: Where To Light](#).

Women: Who Lights Shabbat Candles

For priority order of family members to light *Shabbat* candles, see [Shabbat: Candles: Who Lights](#).

Women: How To Bless over Shabbat Candles

For questions about the *Shabbat* candle lighting blessing, see [Shabbat: Candles: How To Do Blessing: Women](#).

Women: When To Make Kiddush after Candle Lighting

For when women can make *kiddush* after Friday night candle lighting, see [Shabbat: Candles: When To Light](#).

Women: Making Kiddush

For women's obligation to make or hear *Shabbat kiddush*, see [Shabbat: Kiddush: Who May Make](#).

Women: Minimum Prayer before Saying Shabbat Kiddush

For women's minimum obligation to pray before saying [Shabbat](#) morning [kiddush](#) and eating, see [Women and Minimum Prayer before Saying *Shabbat Kiddush*](#).

Women: Shabbat and Makeup

For women and makeup on [Shabbat](#), see [Shabbat: Makeup](#).

WOMEN: SHAVING

Women: Shaving

For women and shaving, see

[Women and Razor Blades](#)

[When Haircuts and Shaving Are Forbidden](#)

WOMEN: SINGING

Women: Singing with Men or When Men Present

[Rabbi](#) Heinemann's view is that women should not sing [zmirot](#), [Hallel](#), songs in the [Hagada](#), and other prayers with men or when men are present, but he notes that there are other major opinions that say it is permitted.

Women: Humming

A girl or woman may hum in the presence of men and this does not violate the prohibition against singing in front of men ([kol isha](#)).

WOMEN: SOFER

Women: Sofer

For Women and [Sofer](#), see [Sofer: Woman](#).

WOMEN: STANDING FOR ELDERLY

Women: Standing for Elderly

For women and standing for the elderly, see [Standing for the Elderly](#).

WOMEN: STUDY

WHAT TO TEACH GIRLS

What To Teach Girls

Girls should be taught all [halachot](#) relevant to girls and women, including blessings, and should be taught whatever will increase their awe of [Hashem](#) ([vir'at shamayim](#)).

WOMEN: TORAH SCROLL

Women Reading from Torah Scroll

Women may read from the [Torah](#) scroll when no men are around. They may say only the first blessing over the [Torah](#) and only if they forgot to say that blessing in the morning. They may not say the second blessing.

Women Dancing with Torah Scroll

Women should not dance with a [Torah](#) scroll.

WOMEN: WHAT TO STUDY

Minimum Torah Study for Women

For women and minimum requirements for [Torah](#) study, see [Introduction to *Torah* Study](#).

Women: Torah or Tehillim

If a woman can either study *Torah* or say *Tehilim* (*Psalms*; recited as prayers), the priority is for her to study any *halachot* that she needs to observe before saying *Tehilim* or other prayers.

NOTE However, for the purposes of prayer, saying *Tehilim* is more important than “saying” (or reading) other parts of *Tanach*.

Women: Studying Talmud

Women are not prohibited from learning *Talmud*, but men should not teach them.

NOTE Since women are not required to study *Talmud*, they do not make a *siyum* if they complete studying any part.

Women: Blessings over Torah

Women are required to say the blessings over the *Torah* (*birchot haTorah*) before studying *Torah* or before praying.

WOMEN: WITNESSES

Women: Witnesses

For women and witnesses, see [Witnesses: Women in Jewish Courts](#).