

Guidelines for Erev Pesach Which is on Shabbat 2025/5785

Thursday, 12th of Nissan April 10th

Fast of the Firstborn

The fast will take place on Thursday this year. The Fast Begins at 5:10 am.

A first-born who is fasting may break the fast by attending a Siyyum in person. Since the fast is pushed earlier this year, fathers who normally fast on behalf of their first-born children who are under bar-mitzvah are exempt from the fast.

Bedikat Chametz - Searching for Chametz

Bedikat Chametz will take place on Thursday night. The order of Bedikat Chametz can be found in the beginning of all Haggadahs and is the same as all other years. The search for Chametz may begin after 7:50 pm.

Friday, 13th of Nissan April 11th

Burning of Chametz

It is preferable to burn Chametz by 11:00 am, at the same time of day as all other years. If one cannot burn their Chametz by this time, they can burn their Chametz up until slightly before candle lighting time before Shabbat.

If one is keeping bread for Hamotzi on Shabbat, one may set aside designated bread for Hamotzi and not burn it (see below for Hamotzi options for Shabbat).

Bittul Chametz (nullification of Chametz) should be recited before 10:00 am on Shabbat morning, which is the latest time to eat Chametz. If one is finished getting rid of all his Chametz before Shabbat, it may be recited before Shabbat.

Lighting an Extra 24 Hour Candle Before Shabbat

One should remember to light an extra 24-hour candle before Shabbat, in order to have a pre-existing flame to use for Havdala at the Seder on Saturday night.

Shabbat, 14th of Nissan April 12th

Shabbat Meals:

Hamotzi is required for the Friday night and Saturday lunch meals on all Shabbats. To satisfy this requirement this coming Shabbat, one has several options:

Option # 1 – Using Egg Matzah: One can use Kosher for Passover egg matzah for Hamotzi for both meals. To make Hamotzi on Egg Matzah, one person should eat 2 full matzahs at each meal.

Option # 2 – Fried or Cooked Matzah: One can use fried matzah for Hamotzi for the first two meals. One must fry or cook the matzah before Shabbat (remember to use kosher for Passover pans and utensils). One person must have $\frac{2}{3}$ of a machine-made (square) fried matzah, or half of a fried shemura (round) matzah at each meal.

Option # 3 – Keeping Bread: One can save a few loaves of bread for Hamotzi on Friday night and early Shabbat morning. One must be especially careful to clean and dispose of all pieces of bread when finished. If keeping bread for Shabbat, it is recommended to use pita bread or similar type of bread that will not leave many crumbs. When keeping bread for Hamotzi, one must be sure to stop eating by 10:00 am, and dispose of all leftover bread by 11am, followed by reciting the nullification/bittul.

Using Regular Matzah: One can use regular matzah for Hamotzi for the Friday night meal **ONLY**. One person must have $\frac{2}{3}$ of a machine-made (square) matzah, or half of a shemura (round) matzah at this meal. For the day meal, one must use one of the above options.

It is preferable to discard all Chametz and use one of the Kosher for Passover option for Shabbat where possible, to prevent halachic difficulties of having Chametz around on Shabbat.

Seudat Shelishit

For seudat shelishit, it is recommended to have a light meal made of fruits, fish, or other foods that are not bread-based. If one wants to make Hamotzi, one can use egg or fried matzah as detailed above. One should avoid starting a Hamotzi meal at 4pm or later. One should have seudat shelishit as early as possible in order to have an appetite at the Seder. The earliest time for seudat shelishit this year is 1:33pm.

Preparing for the Seder

As a rule, halacha forbids preparing anything for after-Shabbat on Shabbat itself. This prohibition includes preparing for the Seder (setting the table, preparing the food, candle lighting, etc) before Shabbat is over. One can begin Seder preparations beginning 50 minutes after sunset (8:22 pm in Great Neck, **Sunset in Great Neck is 7:32 pm**). It is highly recommended to set the table for the Seder before Shabbat.

Women should only light their candles after 50 minutes after sunset 8:22 pm. The seder may begin after this time as well.