

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.