

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ENDING: HAVDALA: WHAT TO USE

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: No Candle or Spices

For Jewish festival havdala, use only wine (or a substitute, chamar medina, beverage); NO candle or spices (unless the Jewish festival also coincided with Shabbat).

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Beverage

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

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: Filling the Cup

You must pour at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a revi'it) of wine or other beverage into the havdala cup--this is halacha. However, to symbolize that we are blessed (siman bracha) with wealth, overfill the cup (non-binding custom).

NOTE Do not drink the overflow, to show that we are so rich that we do not need the spilled beverage.

NOTE Do not overfill a cup containing shmita wine!

Jewish Festivals: Ending: Havdala: How Much To Drink

To fulfill the commandment of havdala (or kiddush), the person making kiddush must drink at least 2 fl. oz. (59 ml) within 30 seconds from the kiddush cup. However, drinking at least 4 fl. oz. (119 ml--a revi'it) from the havdala cup within 30 seconds allows you to say bracha achrona.

Jewish Festivals: Ending: 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.