

JEWISH FESTIVALS: PERMITTED/FORBIDDEN ACTIONS

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ACQUISITIONS

Jewish Festivals: Acquisitions

You may not acquire items (*kinyan*) on *Jewish festivals* unless they are needed for that *Jewish festival* or for a *mitzva*. The classic example is bringing food or wine to a house for *Jewish festival* lunch, which the house owner acquires on the *Jewish festival* for the *Jewish festival*. Other permissible *kinyan* on *Jewish festivals* is giving:

- *Siddur*, *machzor*, or *chumash* to use on that day.
- Permissible medicine for use on that day.

On bringing mail or a newspaper into your house on *Jewish festivals*, see [Jewish Festivals: Bringing Mail inside House](#) and [Jewish Festivals: Bringing Newspaper inside House](#).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ANIMALS

Jewish Festivals: Trapping Animals

You may not trap animals on *Jewish festivals*.

Jewish Festivals: Releasing Trapped Wild Animal

As on *Shabbat*, on *Jewish festivals* you may release a wild animal that is trapped in a trap or cage by opening the door or gate, but you may not move or lift the cage.

Jewish Festivals: Feeding Trapped Wild Animal

You may not feed wild animals on *Jewish festivals*. But if you intend to keep the animal, you MUST feed it.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: AIR CONDITIONERS

Jewish Festivals: Adjusting Air Conditioner Louvers

As on *Shabbat*, you may adjust air conditioner louvers on *Jewish festivals*.

Jewish Festivals: Adjusting Air Conditioner Temperatures

On *Jewish festivals*, you may:

- Lower the temperature when an air conditioner compressor is running, and
- Raise the temperature when the compressor is off.

NOTE You may do so ONLY with an analog control; not with a digital control.

REASON *Grama* is permissible on *Jewish festivals* (but not on *Shabbat*).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BATHING

Jewish Festivals: Showering

It is forbidden to shower on *Jewish festivals*.

Jewish Festivals: Blotting Hair

You may blot your hair with a towel on *Jewish festivals* as long as you don't squeeze or wring out your hair.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BIOLUMINESCENCE

Jewish Festivals: Creating Bioluminescent Light

You may not create bioluminescent light, as with glowsticks, on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BOOKS

Jewish Festivals: Marking Pages in Books

You may mark pages in a book, whether secular or holy, on Jewish festivals by:

- Putting slips of paper in the book (but only if the slips were torn before the Jewish festival began), or
- Bending the corners.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BRAIDING HAIR

Jewish Festivals: Braiding Hair

As on Shabbat, you may not braid (or unbraid) hair on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BRUSHING TEETH

Jewish Festivals: Water, Tooth Powder, Toothwashing Liquid

You may use water, tooth powder, and toothwashing liquid on Jewish festivals. But, to avoid squeezing the toothbrush bristles, you must put the water or toothwashing liquid into your mouth and not on the brush.

Jewish Festivals: Flossing Teeth

You may floss your teeth on Jewish festivals as long as your gums do not bleed.

Jewish Festivals: Cutting Floss

You may not cut floss on Jewish festivals, so it is best to cut the floss before the festival starts.

NOTE Even if you did not cut the floss ahead of time, you may still pull out a length of floss and clean your teeth (but be careful not to cut off the floss when you are finished.)

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BUSINESSES

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Jewish Festivals: Business Ownership

A business whose sole or major owner is Jewish may not be operated on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat), even by non-Jewish employees. There may be possibilities to allow operation by relinquishing majority control, but the issues are complex and rabbinic guidance is essential.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: INTERNET BUSINESS

Jewish Festivals: Internet Business

Running a business that accepts orders and payments over the internet during Jewish festivals (and Shabbat) is complicated. The main issue is collecting payments. A rabbi should be consulted for specific cases.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SELLING TICKETS FOR FLIGHTS

Jewish Festivals: Selling Tickets for Flights

If you are a travel agent, you may sell airline tickets during a weekday to a Jew who will fly on a Jewish festival (even though Jews are not allowed to fly--except in some emergencies).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CHILDREN

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CHILDREN AND MELACHA

Jewish Festivals: Children and Melacha

As on Shabbat, you may not have a child, even younger than gil chinuch, do melacha for you on a Jewish festival.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CHILDREN'S GAMES

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BALL PLAYING

Jewish Festivals and Ball Playing in Yard or Eruv

Playing ball is not forbidden on Jewish festivals, as long as the Jewish festival does not coincide with Shabbat (in which case, it is not forbidden to play ball in an enclosed private yard, but it is not in the spirit of Jewish festivals or Shabbat).

Jewish Festivals and Retrieving Ball

You may retrieve a ball or other item that has fallen into a bush on a Jewish festival, but only if you can get it without moving the bush.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CARD PLAYING

Jewish Festivals: Cards If No Gambling or Melacha

Playing cards is not forbidden on Jewish festivals as long as you do not gamble or do melacha. As on Shabbat, you may sort a deck of cards into suits.

NOTE However, playing cards is not in the spirit of Jewish festivals (or Shabbat).

Jewish Festivals: Removing Unwanted Cards

Unlike on Shabbat, on a Jewish festival you may select (boreir) and remove unwanted cards (such as Jokers).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: STICKERS

Jewish Festivals: Stickers

Children may apply or remove stickers for decoration or “jewelry” if the stickers and earrings are likely to come off in less than 24 hours.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CLOTHING

JEWISH FESTIVALS: REMOVING DIRT FROM CLOTHING

Jewish Festivals: Non-Embedded Dirt

You may remove non-embedded dirt or hair from the surface of clothing on Jewish festivals. You may not remove dust or burrs and anything that penetrates the surface of the garment.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FOLDING CLOTHES

Jewish Festivals: Folding Clothes on Existing Crease

Don't fold clothes (including a talit) on an existing crease on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festivals: Folding Clothes on New Crease

You may fold clothes on Jewish festivals by making a new crease, but only if there is already an existing one on the garment. If there is not a crease from before you used the garment, you may not make one.

REASON This avoids smoothing out clothing (a forbidden action on Jewish festivals and Shabbat).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: REMOVING TAGS FROM CLOTHING

Jewish Festivals: Removing Tags from Clothing

You may not cut a tag off clothes on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COLORING (TZOVEI'A)

Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Coloring (Tzovei'a)

Since wool and/or leather was dyed for the Tabernacle in the desert, similar actions are forbidden today on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat). Any action that causes one item or substance to change its color may be forbidden, even if it is not related to dyeing wool or leather.

Jewish Festivals: Coloring (Tzovei'a): Food

You may not add a substance, whether food or other, in order to color food on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat). You may add food to other food even if it will cause the other food to become colored as long as that is not your intention.

Jewish Festivals: Coloring (Tzovei'a): Cloth

You may wipe a stain off of your face or hands onto a cloth or piece of paper if you do it to clean your face or hands on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat), but not if you want to color the cloth or paper.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COURIERS AND PACKAGES

Jewish Festivals: Shipment that Arrives on Festival

You may not send a shipment--such as Fedex or another express delivery service--to arrive on Jewish festivals. However, you may tell the shipper that it is OK with you if it is delivered at night after the festival.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CUT FLOWERS

Jewish Festivals: Putting Cut Flowers in Water

You may not put cut flowers in a vase or other utensil (with water in it) on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festivals: Adding Water to Cut Flowers

You may add water to cut flowers in a utensil on Jewish festivals as long as there are no unopened buds that will open on the Jewish festival.

Jewish Festivals: Moving Cut Flowers

You may move cut flowers in a vase or other utensil on Jewish festivals if they were in the vase or utensil since before the Jewish festival started.

NOTE If there are still some unopened buds on the stems, you may not put the cut flowers into direct sunlight.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: DOORS

Jewish Festivals: Replacing Doors

You may not replace a door on its hinges and you may not replace a sliding door onto its track on Jewish festivals.

REASON This is due to the mēlāchā of boneh (building).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ELECTRICITY

Jewish Festivals: Turning Off Electrical Devices

You may not turn off or disconnect an operating electrical device (such as an alarm, appliance, light, oven, or any machinery) on Jewish festivals, even using a shinui and even if the noise will prevent you from sleeping. You may ask a non-Jew to turn it off, but you may not ask a Jew, not even a child below bar/bat mitzva age.

NOTE If the device catches on fire, you may call the fire department or unplug it. However, there must be an actual danger or actual fire in order for you to disconnect it yourself. You may not disconnect the device if there is only a chance that it will catch fire, unless an indirect means (grama) is possible (in which case, it would be permissible; consult a rabbi).

Jewish Festivals: Electric Eyes

On Jewish festivals, when walking into the path of an electric eye:

- You may walk into one that prevents a door from closing.
- You may not walk into one that causes the door to open.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ELEVATORS/ESCALATORS

Jewish Festivals: Riding Elevators

You may ride an elevator on Jewish festivals if:

- The elevator stops at all floors, or
- A non-Jew pushes the button in order to ride the elevator himself. But:
 - You may only get off on the floor he or she has stopped at (he or she may not push a button for a different floor for you).
 - You must enter the elevator while the door is already opened but has not yet begun to close (since your presence keeps the door open but does not *cause* it to open).

NOTE You may not ride an elevator at all if a Jew pushes the button to any floor.

Jewish Festival: Riding Escalators

You may ride escalators on Jewish festivals if they run constantly and are not controlled by a foot treadle or an electric eye.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: EXERCISE

Jewish Festivals: Strengthening

You may not exercise on Jewish festivals to strengthen your body. You may exercise on Jewish festivals for enjoyment, for socializing, or other fun purposes if:

- No melacha is involved, and
- It does not appear to be for healing (refu'a) or health purposes.

EXAMPLE

You may run on Jewish festivals if you like to run. You may not run on Jewish festivals if you don't like running but would do it to lose weight or to get in shape.

Jewish Festivals: Trapeze

You may swing and fly on a trapeze on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festivals: Roller Blading

You may roller blade on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festival: Swimming

You may not swim on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festival: Weight-Lifting

You may change weights on barbells or on a completely mechanical (no electrical parts; no timers or indicators) weight machine on Jewish festivals but only for enjoyment, not for exercise.

Jewish Festivals: Stretching

You may stretch on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat) to make yourself more comfortable but not if it appears that you are doing it as exercise for health.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FLASHLIGHTS

Jewish Festivals: Turning On Flashlight

You may not turn a flashlight on or off after sunset at the beginning a Jewish festival (until the holiday is over).

Jewish Festivals: Flashlight On before Festival

If you turn on a flashlight before a Jewish festival starts, you may carry the flashlight with you if you need the light.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FOOD PREPARATION

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH FESTIVALS: FOOD PREPARATION

Introduction to Jewish Festivals and Food Preparation

Food preparation forbidden on Jewish festivals includes these forbidden melachot:

- Preparing soil for planting (choreish)
- Causing plants to grow (zorei'a)
- Harvesting (kotzeir)
- Gathering (mi'ameir)
- Threshing (dash; such as milking a cow into clean container or squeezing juice for drinking)
- Winnowing (zoreh)
- Selecting (boreir) (for exceptions, see [Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Selecting/Boreir](#))
- Grinding (tochein) (Grinding may be OK with a shinu'i; ask a rabbi for specific cases)
- Sifting (merakeid).

However, you may do all food preparation necessary for baking or cooking food for that day--from kneading dough (kneading, or lash) to cooking and baking (ofeh) from an existing flame.

NOTE You may not use electric appliances to knead dough and you may not turn on an electric oven.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: CHECKING FOR BUGS

Checking Product for Bugs on Jewish Festivals

You may check produce for bugs on Jewish festivals. You may remove the bug but not by hand.

EXAMPLE You may rinse a bug off produce.

NOTE You may not kill bugs on Jewish festivals (or Shabbat). To do something that is certain to kill the bug is forbidden; if might not kill the bug, it is OK.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COOKING

JEWISH FESTIVALS: EXISTING FLAME

Jewish Festivals: Cooking from an Existing Flame

You may cook food on all Jewish festivals (except Yom Kippur or when they coincide with Shabbat) as long as the fire, oven, or other cooking appliance:

- Has been on since before the Jewish festival began, OR
- Is lit during the Jewish festival from an existing flame, such as from a pilot light or yahrzeit candle lit before the Jewish festival began.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ASKING NON-JEW TO TURN ON A STOVE OR OVEN

Jewish Festivals: Asking Non-Jew To Turn on a Stove or Oven

You may directly ask a non-Jew to turn on a stove or oven for you.

NOTE Be careful about bishul akum problems if a non-Jew will then be cooking food for Jews on that stove or oven.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ADJUSTING STOVE/OVEN TEMPERATURE CONTROLS

JEWISH FESTIVALS: DIGITAL-DISPLAY DEVICES

Digital-Display Ovens and Stoves on Jewish Festivals

You may not adjust digital-display ovens and stoves (and also refrigerators or other electronic devices) on Jewish festivals unless they were designed for Jewish festival use.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: RAISING/LOWERING FLAMES/HEAT

Jewish Festivals: Raising Flames/Heat

On Jewish festivals, you may adjust (analog-only) temperature controls of gas and electric stoves and ovens UP when the heating element is ON, as verified by an indicator light or some other means.

Jewish Festivals: Lowering Flames/Heat

On Jewish festivals, you may adjust (analog-only) temperature controls of gas and electric stoves and ovens DOWN but ONLY to prevent the food's getting overcooked or burnt (not for convenience or to save money). One permitted way to lower a burner temperature is to put a pot of water on the burner and lower the flame so the water does not boil away (but you must use some of the heated water during the holiday!).

NOTE For an electric stove or oven, you may only adjust the temperature DOWN when the heating element is OFF, as shown by an indicator light.

NOTE An analog control used on Jewish festivals must allow continuous changes to the temperature: if an analog control has discreet settings, it may not be used on Jewish festivals!

JEWISH FESTIVALS: COOKING ON FIRST DAY FOR SECOND DAY

Jewish Festivals: Cooking on First Day for Second Day

You may not cook on the first day of a Jewish festival for the second day. But you may cook enough food for both days in the same pot, even l'chatchila (but not bein ha'shmashot). You must eat at least a normal-sized portion before sunset on the first Jewish festival day.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ERUV TAVSHILIN

Jewish Festivals: Personal Eruv Tavshilin

One person per household should make an eruv tavshilin in order to allow cooking on a Jewish festival for the next day, if the next day is Shabbat. The person sets aside something cooked and something baked and says a formula (which can be found in most siddurs).

NOTE An eruv tavshilin made by one person covers everyone in that household, including guests staying over for that Jewish festival--even if he or she did not intend it to cover anyone else.

Jewish Festivals: Eating Eruv Tavshilin Food

You are not required to eat food set aside for an eruv tavshilin, but the custom is to eat it for se'uda shlishit.

Jewish Festivals: Rabbi's Eruv Tavshilin

If you forgot to make an eruv tavshilin, you may rely on the eruv tavshilin said by the local rabbi only once in your lifetime.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FREEZING

Jewish Festivals: Making Ice Cubes

You may fill an ice cube tray on Jewish festivals if you intend to use the ice cubes on the same day.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: GRINDING

Grinding on Jewish Festivals: How Finely You May Grind

You may not grind, grate, or even finely chop or dice food on Jewish festivals. You may not use a garlic press on Jewish festivals.

The minimum size before violating the melacha of tochein varies by the type of food. The resulting pieces must be somewhat larger than the size you would normally use.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SALTING

Jewish Festivals: Salting Food

You may not salt certain foods, whether cooked or raw, on Jewish festivals if the:

- Foods have a shell, such as corn kernels (on or off of the cob), beans, peas;
- Salt has not been heated previously (such as during salt processing) and the food you are salting is hot (over 120° F, or 49° C); or
- Salt will materially change the flavor of the food, especially if it causes a chemical change, as when salting cut or chopped onions or salting tomatoes.

NOTE You may dip the tomato or other food into salt using your hand as long as you eat the food immediately afterwards.

NOTE If the food has oil in it, you may add salt even if the food contains onions or has a shell.

NOTE Even a thin layer of oil will exempt the salt.

NOTE You may pour salt into a liquid or a liquid onto salt, but you may not make a saturated salt solution on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SELECTING/BOREIR

Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Selecting/Boreir

Issues of boreir are almost always d'oraita, not d'rabanan, and therefore we are stringent in applying restrictions concerning boreir.

Unlike on Shabbat (when you must remove some good along with the bad so as not to violate the melacha of boreir), on Jewish festivals you may remove the bad from the good if it is easier to take the undesired food from the desired food.

Desired from Undesired

You may select desired food from undesired (or inedible) substances if you follow these two rules:

1. Cannot Use Specialized Separating Utensil

Don't use a utensil--such as a slotted spoon, peeler, or sieve--that is specialized for separating:

- Food from other food, or

- Food from other substances.

NOTE You may remove dirt from a carrot's surface by scraping the peel with a knife (a tool not specialized for separating food), but not by using a peeler.

EXCEPTION As on Shabbat, an action necessary to eat a food normally (derech achila) does not violate the prohibition of boreir. So you may peel a food that is normally separated from its peel or shell in order to be eaten, as long as you do not use a specialized instrument to do so.

EXAMPLES

- You may peel an orange by hand, with or without a knife.
- You may remove the shells from peanuts by hand.
- You may remove the shell from a hard-boiled egg by hand.

2. Do This Shortly before You Eat the Food

Prepare the food soon before it will be eaten.

NOTE You may prepare the food as much in advance as you would normally prepare a meal which you will eat--even as much as several hours.

EXAMPLES

On Jewish festivals, you may:

- Remove fish bones from fish while you are eating the fish or just before eating it.
- Cut open a melon such as a cantaloupe and remove any seeds normally.

Jewish Festivals: Separating Good Food from Bad in Your Mouth

You may separate food inside your mouth while eating, even if you remove the bad from the good, on Jewish festivals (it is not boreir.)

Jewish Festivals: Salt Shaker with Rice

You may not, due to boreir, use a salt shaker into which rice has been added (in order to keep the salt dry).

Jewish Festivals: Lemon Seeds

You may remove lemon seeds (pits) from food, such as after you have squeezed out some lemon juice, but not with a specialized utensil such as a sieve or slotted spoon.

Jewish Festivals: Washing-Draining Food

You may wash and drain olives and other canned fruits and vegetables on Jewish festivals (it is not boreir unless the food in the can is dirty).

Jewish Festivals: Dropping Unwanted Food

When you have food mixed with non-desired substances, you may remove the non-desired ones by picking up the entire mixture and letting the non-desired elements fall away.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SEPARATING CHALLA

Jewish Festivals: Challa Not Separated before Festival

On Jewish festivals, you may not separate challa from loaves baked before the festival, as follows:

- In Eretz Yisrael, you may not eat bread from which challa was not separated if required (for more details, see [Separating the Challa Portion](#) and [Challa Separation](#)) until after the Jewish festival ends and you have separated the challa.
- Outside Eretz Yisrael, you may:

- Leave one loaf until after the [Jewish festival](#),
- Eat as much as you want of the remaining loaves, and then
- Separate the [challa](#) from the loaf after [havdala](#).

NOTE If the bread was baked on a [Jewish festival](#), you may separate [challa](#) on the [Jewish festival](#).

NOTE This is true even for loaves that came from dough of more than 2.5 lbs of flour.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SQUEEZING JUICE

Jewish Festivals: Squeezing a Lemon

As on [Shabbat](#), on [Jewish festivals](#) you may squeeze a lemon (or other fruit) onto solid food—or mostly solid, even wet, food—that you will eat right away, but not into a container or into a liquid.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FANS

Jewish Festivals: Moving a Fan

You may pick up and move a fan on [Jewish festivals](#) if you need it elsewhere.

NOTE You may not plug in the fan or unplug it on [Jewish festivals](#).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: FLUIDS ON SKIN

Jewish Festivals: Fluids on Skin

For using fluids on skin during [Jewish festivals](#), see [Jewish Festivals: Sunscreen](#).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: GLASSES

Jewish Festivals: Eye Glasses

You may wash reading glasses or sunglasses using liquid soap on [Jewish festivals](#).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: GRAMA

Jewish Festivals: Temperature Controls and Grama

On [Jewish festivals](#), “[grama](#)” (indirect action) is permissible. For adjusting temperature controls on [Jewish festivals](#), see [Jewish Festivals: Adjusting Air Conditioner Temperatures](#) and [Jewish Festivals: Adjusting Heater](#).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: HAIR/BEARDS

Jewish Festivals: Hair Brushing

You may brush your hair on a [Jewish festival](#), but only if the brush bristles bend easily. You may not use stiff bristles or combs since they might pull out some hair.

NOTE Using a special brush for [Jewish festivals](#) (and [Shabbat](#)) is recommended but not required.

Jewish Festival: Hair Cuts/Shaving

You may not have your hair cut and you may not shave on [Jewish festivals](#) (and [Shabbat](#)).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: HEATERS

Jewish Festivals: Adjusting Heater

On [Jewish festivals](#), you may adjust a heater with an analog thermostat:

- UP when running, and
- DOWN or OFF when not running.

REASON This is due to grama, which is permissible on Jewish festivals (but not on Shabbat).

NOTE You may not adjust a digital thermostat.

Jewish Festivals: Moving Electric Heater

You may pick up and move an electric heater that is ON on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat) only if:

- You need the heat elsewhere, or
- You need to use the space where the heater is standing.

NOTE You may not unplug it.

Jewish Festivals: Moving Flame Heater

Unlike on Shabbat, you may move a kerosene or other heater that has a flame burning on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: INSECTS

Jewish Festivals: Insects that May Carry Diseases

You may kill mosquitoes and other insects on Jewish festivals if they carry deadly diseases, which makes the insects a danger (sakana). You may kill insects that might carry diseases even if you do not know for certain.

Jewish Festivals: Biting or Stinging Insects

If insects such as bees or non-diseased mosquitoes don't carry diseases but they bite or sting you, you may kill them on Jewish festivals, as well as trapping them or chasing them away with bug spray. Unlike on Shabbat, on a Jewish festival you may kill insects that are a nuisance, such as gnats or flies. These halachot apply to all Jewish festivals unless they fall on Shabbat (or are Yom Kippur).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: KNOTS

Jewish Festivals: Permanent Knots

You may not tie permanent knots on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat).

NOTE A permanent knot is a knot intended to remain tied for at least 24 hours. Any strings you connect on Jewish festivals must be able to easily come undone, such as a bow.

NOTE Since opinions differ on what constitutes a permanent knot, we do not even tie knots that are intended to be untied, such as a double figure-eight knot.

Jewish Festivals: Double Bows

You may not tie a double bow on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: LCDS/LEDS

Jewish Festivals: Changing LCD/LED

As on Shabbat, you may not use any item on a Jewish festival that will cause an LCD or LED to form letters or change an LCD display.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: LAUNDRY

Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Laundry

You may not wash or hang up wet laundry on Jewish festivals (or Shabbat). The halachot for drying laundry depend on whether you use a clothesline or a dryer:

Jewish Festivals: Laundry: Clothesline

You may only take down laundry on Jewish festivals if it was dry before sunset at the start of the festival, and

only if you don't:

- Transfer the laundry from one *halachic* domain to another (*hotza'a*), or
- Give the impression that the laundry had been washed on the Jewish festival (*mar'it ayin*).

If laundry on a clothesline is still wet at sunset before the festival, the laundry is muktza and you may not take it down or use it during the *festival*. This is different from the case of a dryer.

REASON On the clothes line, there is no certainty that the laundry will dry during the festival (it might rain, it might be cold or cloudy...), so the person may not have in mind that it will dry during the festival.

Jewish Festivals: Laundry: Dryer

Laundry in a dryer (even if it was wet at sunset) that was turned on before sunset beginning the Jewish festival (or Shabbat) is not muktza, even if you do not intend to wear it. You may remove the dry laundry from the dryer on the Jewish festival as long as no light goes on.

JEWISH FESTIVAL: LIGHTS

Jewish Festivals: Redirecting Lighting Fixture

You may redirect a light fixture on Jewish festivals, but only by moving it with a stick or other object, not directly with your hand.

NOTE During Jewish festivals, you may not:

- Turn this light on or off, or
- Disconnect its plug or light bulb.

Jewish Festivals: Moving Lighting Fixture

You may directly move a lamp or other light fixture to where you need the light but you may not:

- Plug or unplug the plug from the wall.
- Turn the light on or off.

Jewish Festivals: Unplugging Turned-Off Light

You may unplug a turned-off light on Jewish festivals if:

- You need the space where the lamp is situated, or
- The cord is in the way and you want to remove it so someone doesn't trip.

NOTE You may not turn off the light on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MAIL AND PERIODICALS

Jewish Festivals: Bringing Mail inside House

Do not bring mail inside the house on Jewish festivals, unless it was delivered:

- Open

REASON Most mail is muktza on Jewish festivals since it cannot be opened or used without doing melacha, AND

- From within techum Shabbat, AND
- By a non-Jew.

Jewish Festivals: Bringing Newspaper inside House

You may bring a newspaper, magazine, or other reading material inside the house on Jewish festivals and read it, UNLESS it was:

- Printed on Shabbat or a Jewish festival, OR
- Brought from outside the techum Shabbat, OR
- Delivered by a Jew.

If any of these conditions apply, you may not move it or use it in any way during the Jewish festival, even if all of the other conditions permit its use. You may use it once the Jewish festival is over.

NOTE As a policy, you may want to tell delivery services (newspapers, post office, etc.) that you do not need to have the item delivered until after dark.

REASON If delivered on the Jewish festival day, it will not be done at your request and, if it is reading material, you may read the material as long as the other conditions permit it--see above.

NOTE If you do not know where the reading material came from, you may not use it on the Jewish festival.

NOTE Although taking possession of the newspaper, magazine, or other reading material is “acquisition” (kinyan), you may do so since you will use it on the Jewish festival.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MAKEUP

Jewish Festivals: Applying Makeup

Girls and women may not put on any nail polish or makeup on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat), including mascara and lipstick.

NOTE Regarding makeup that consists only of powder (no oil or liquid ingredients) and that comes off easily, ask your rabbi. Beware of “Shabbat makeup” that stays on longer than normal makeup but is forbidden to be applied on Shabbat or Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festivals: Removing Makeup

Girls and women may remove makeup or nail polish on Jewish festivals (or Shabbat).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MEDICINES

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH FESTIVALS: MEDICINES

Introduction to Jewish Festivals: Medicines

Jewish Festivals: Medicines: When To Take

Medicine generally may not be used on the d'oraita Jewish festival days.

Jewish Festivals: Medicine for Chronic Diseases

You may take medicine on Jewish festivals (whether d'oraita or d'rabanana) for:

- Chronic diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, or
- Any disease that affects your entire body.

Jewish Festivals: Medicine for Non-Chronic Diseases

You may take medicine on Jewish festivals for non-chronic illnesses, if skipping one day will prevent cure.

You may not take medicine for non-chronic illnesses if skipping a day will just delay your being cured (unless the disease affects your entire body--in which case, you may take the medicine).

Jewish Festivals: Medicines: When To Take: D'Oraita Festival Days

Here are the d'oraita Jewish festivals:

- First day of Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot

- Seventh day of Passover
- Shmini Atzeret (8th day of Sukkot)
- Yom Kippur
- Both days of Rosh Hashana (even though the second day is *d'rabanan*).

On these days, as well as on *d'rabanan Jewish festivals*, you:

- MUST take medicine whenever there is any question of a life-threatening disease or condition.
- MAY take medicine for a condition that affects the entire body (illness, weakness, etc.). Consult a rabbi if possible.

EXCEPTION You may not smear substances on skin UNLESS the illness is life-threatening, in which case even smearing is permitted.

- MAY use some medicines if only part of your body is affected by a non-life-threatening disease--consult a rabbi.

Jewish Festivals: Medicines: When To Take: D'Rabanan Festival Days

You may take medicines for any reason on *d'rabanan Jewish festivals*--even medicines not allowed on the first day of *Jewish festivals*--except:

- Medicines that you smear on skin.
- If the *Jewish festival* falls on Shabbat (which can only be second day of Shavuot).

NOTE The *d'rabanan Jewish festivals* are the second day of *Jewish festivals* except Rosh Hashana (actually, the second day of Rosh Hashana IS *d'rabanan* but has the status of *d'oraita*), plus the last day of Passover and Simchat Torah outside of Eretz Yisrael.

Jewish Festivals: Squeezing, Dabbing, Smearing

As on Shabbat, you may squeeze a tube of cream on *Jewish festivals*, but you might not be able to use the cream on the *Jewish festival* for other reasons—consult a rabbi.

NOTE Smearing creams or ointments is permitted only in life-threatening situations. Otherwise, you may not smear cream on skin on a *Jewish festival* (or Shabbat) even using a shinu'i such as using the back of your hand or a toe.

Dabbing is permitted, but only when you are permitted to use medicine.

EXAMPLE

You may use cream on a *Jewish festival* (and Shabbat) by dabbing (you may ONLY dab--you may not SMEAR cream) for a bee sting if it will affect the entire body. You may not use cream for a mosquito bite, since it is only a local irritation.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: PAINKILLERS

Jewish Festivals: When You May Take a Painkiller

You may take a painkiller on the first day of *Jewish festivals* if the pain:

- Affects your entire body, or
- Keeps you awake.

NOTE This also becomes the criterion for whether to take the pain killer during the daytime: if the pain you feel during the day would keep you awake if you were trying to sleep.

NOTE You may take painkillers without any restrictions on the second *Jewish festival* day (except Rosh Hashana).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MOPPING

Jewish Festivals: Mopping

You may squeegee a floor--as is commonly done in Israel--on Jewish festivals (or Shabbat), but you may not push the water onto earth or plants.

You may mop up a local spill, but only without squeezing out the rag or mop.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: MUSIC

Jewish Festivals: Kazoos/Whistles

You may not use a kazoo or a whistle on Jewish festivals, but you may whistle with your mouth.

Jewish Festivals: Listening to Non-Jewish Musicians

You may listen to non-Jewish musicians performing on Jewish festivals if:

- You do not need a ticket, and
- They are not playing particularly for Jews.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: NAIL CUTTING

Jewish Festivals: Having Nails Cut

You may not cut your nails or have your nails cut on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat).

JEWISH FESTIVALS: NON-JEWS (SHABBAT GOY)

Jewish Festivals: Asking a Non-Jew To Do Melacha D'Oraita

Although you may not normally tell a non-Jew to do melacha d'oraita on a Jewish festival, even for the purpose of doing a mitzva, the non-Jew is not forbidden from doing melacha if he/she wants to do so.

NOTE To save a life, even a Jew may do melacha d'oraita.

Jewish Festival: Inviting Non-Jews to Meal

You may not cook food specifically for a non-Jew on a Jewish festival. You may only invite a non-Jew for a meal on a Jewish festival if you inform him or her ahead of time that you will not cook something special for him or her.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: OPENING/SEALING/TEARING

JEWISH FESTIVALS: BOTTLES

Jewish Festivals: Opening Plastic Bottles

You may completely open plastic bottle caps on plastic bottles on Jewish festivals (even if doing so will leave a plastic ring on the bottle), as long as it is theoretically possible to dispense the liquid without completely separating the cap from its seal.

REASON Since liquid can be poured with the cap still attached, we have not violated the Jewish festival by making a sealed bottle into a “new utensil.”

NOTE If you will destroy letters that are printed on the cap, you may not open the bottle.

Jewish Festivals: Opening Metal Bottle Caps

You may not open metal bottle caps on Jewish festivals if a metal ring will be left after doing so. You may break that ring or simply open the bottle before the Jewish festival (or simply open the bottle and reclose it such that when you open in again, no metal will be broken).

NOTE If you need the contents for a Jewish festival (such as if it is a bottle of wine), you may ask a non-Jew to open the bottle for you. But if it is wine that is not cooked/mevushal, the wine will become non-

kosher once opened and handled by the non-Jew.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TWIST-TIES

Jewish Festivals: Non-Permanent Twist-Ties

You may twist or untwist twist ties on Jewish festivals (and Shabbat), but only if you intend them to be a non-permanent seal.

NOTE If you will (at any time in the future—even long after the Jewish festival is over) remove the twist-tie, it is considered non-permanent.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: PUMPS

Jewish Festivals: Well Water

You may use water from a well on Jewish festivals (as on Shabbat) via an automatic pump that fills a reservoir once the water level drops. But you may not operate the pump directly and you may not turn the pump on or off.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: REFRIGERATORS

Jewish Festivals: Opening Refrigerator Door with LEDs

As on Shabbat, do not open a refrigerator door that has LEDs that illuminate when the door is opened on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: ROOM SENSORS

Jewish Festivals: Covering Motion Detectors

SITUATION A motion detector will light up when you move.

WHAT TO DO You must cover the detector or turn off the device before the Jewish festival begins.

Jewish Festivals: Walking Past Motion Detectors/Microwave Sensors Situation

SITUATION You enter a room on a Jewish festival and then find that there is a motion detector that will turn on a light or an LED.

WHAT TO DO You should not move until someone else has entered the room and the light has turned on. You may then leave while the light is still on.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SECULAR STUDIES

Jewish Festivals: Secular Studies

Studying secular subjects on Jewish festivals is not in the spirit of the Jewish festival, but you may do so.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SOAP

Jewish Festivals: Hard Soap

You may not use hard soap on Jewish festivals.

Jewish Festivals: Soap Bubbles

Causing soap bubbles from lather is not a problem on Jewish festivals.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SPONGING

Jewish Festivals: Sponging

You may not wash dishes on Jewish festivals with a

- Sponge (even if it is on a handle),
- Dish rag, or
- Scrubbing pad (pad that holds water and, when used, the water gets squeezed out).

You may use wide mesh or other items that do not normally hold water.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: SUNSCREEN

Jewish Festivals: Sunscreens

To use a fluid on skin on *Jewish festivals*, even sunscreen that may be needed to protect damaged skin, the fluid must flow without lumps and not be more viscous than honey at room temperature. Therefore, apply sunscreen only if fluid (but not a cream or thick liquid).

Jewish Festivals: Diluting Sunscreens before Festival

You may dilute sunscreen before *Jewish festivals* with water or alcohol, but some sunscreens may not become more fluid even with added water or alcohol.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TALKING

Jewish Festivals: Talking about Weekday Subjects

You may talk about weekday subjects on *Jewish festivals* if what you are discussing already happened, but you may not discuss plans to do activities that involve any type of *melacha*, even d'rabanan.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TAPING

Jewish Festivals: Taping Items Together

You may not tape items together, on *Jewish festivals*, if you intend for them to stay attached for more than 24 hours.

Jewish Festivals: Taping Card to Hotel Door

You may tape a card to a hotel room door on *Jewish festivals* in order to prevent it from locking you out.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TEARING

Jewish Festivals: Tearing Paper and Plastic Wrap

You may tear paper, plastic, foil, or other wrappers around food in order to eat that food on a *Jewish festival*.

You may tear plastic and foil (but not paper) around napkins, plasticware, etc., that you need on *Jewish festival*.

But you may not:

- Do so if you will inevitably tear through any words or pictures on the package.
- Use scissors.

Except for wrappers for food or eating utensils, do not tear paper, foil, toilet paper, parchment paper, plastic wrap, paper towels, etc., on a *Jewish festival*.

NOTE If there is a perforation, that makes the tearing worse.

NOTE If you do not have any torn toilet paper, tear it in an unusual way:

EXAMPLES

- Tear using the back of your hand.
- Spread the toilet paper across your knees and then spread your knees apart.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TECHUM SHABBAT

Jewish Festival: Item from outside Techum Shabbat

You may not use, on a *Jewish festival*, any item that was outside the *techum Shabbat* when the *Jewish festival* began--even if a non-Jew brought it to you.

SITUATION You arrive on a flight but your luggage is delayed and delivered on *Shabbat* or a *Jewish festival*. Or, a package is delivered to you then.

WHAT TO DO If the airport or delivery warehouse is within *techum Shabbat*, you may use whatever is brought to you. If the airport or warehouse is outside *techum Shabbat*, you may not use the items until enough time has passed after *Shabbat* (or the *Jewish festival*) for them to have been delivered from the airport or warehouse.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TELEPHONES

Jewish Festivals: Telephones and Time Zones

If a *Jewish festival* is over where you are, you may speak by phone to non-Jews in a place that is still observing the *Jewish festival*.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TOILET

Jewish Festivals: Toilet

Flushing a toilet on a *Jewish festival* is not a violation of transferring from domains.

REASON The pipe is considered too small a space to be a domain.

NOTE If the water comes from a pump-operated well, such as in rural or remote areas, consult a *rabbi*.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: TREES

Jewish Festivals: Walking between Trees/Bushes

You may walk between bushes or trees on *Jewish festivals*, even if they are close to each other, and you may use your body to make space for yourself to walk. But you may not push the trunks or branches away using your hand.

REASON The trees are *muktza*.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: WATER (POOL)

Jewish Festivals: Dangling Legs

On *Jewish festivals* (and *Shabbat*), you may dangle your feet or legs into a pool (or other body) of water up to whatever garment you are wearing. However, you may not let the garment get wet.

JEWISH FESTIVALS: WATER FILTERS

Jewish Festivals: Filtering Potable Water

You may filter plain water using a non-electrical water filter on *Jewish Festivals*.

NOTE The water must be potable before filtering.

