Preparing for Jewish Festivals

Here are some suggestions (they are NOT *halachot*!) of what to prepare in advance of *Jewish festivals*. Add or delete to suit your needs!

Candle Lighting

- Check candle lighting time
- Set the candles in their holders (and have matches nearby)

Set the Table
Set the table, including the *challa* and its cover

Kitchen Preparation

- Sharpen knives
- Tear paper towels
- Refrigerator: Turn off or unscrew lights; disconnect any LEDs or fans
- Turn on *blech*, stove, oven, etc., for whatever you will need
- Set up hot water urn
- Turn off stove, oven, if needed

Food Preparation

- Thaw frozen meat, fish, and other food that might take hours to defrost before being cooked
- Cook whatever can be cooked ahead of time
- Squeeze lemons; do any other *boreir*-type preparations
- Chill wine
- Open bottles and cans that will be needed on the *Jewish festival*

Cleaning

- Make beds
- Sweep or vacuum
- Dump garbage

Clothing

- Do laundry
- Empty pockets of *muktza*
- For men, set out *Jewish festival talit*

Muktza
Check that nothing you will need is beneath a *muktza* item

Personal Care

- Cut hair and nails, if needed
- For men, shave or trim beard and mustache, if needed
- Tear dental floss
- Tear toilet paper or put out tissues in bathrooms
- Open any new boxes of tissues

Electronics

- Set heat or air conditioning
- Turn on or off lights, or set timers for them
- If desired, turn off or disconnect:
    - Alarms
    - Cellphones and phones
    - Computers
    - Microwave detectors
    - Other electronics

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