

# Passover



בס"ד  
VAAD HOEIR OF ST. LOUIS

# GUIDE

5785-2025

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## Dear Fellow Community Members,

**W**e are pleased to present to you the 5785 Passover Guide of the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis. You will find in the coming pages much useful information to help you prepare for yom tov.

It is impossible to properly list all suitable products available for Passover, however we have endeavored to include some of the most pertinent information. Please call the Vaad office with any questions you might have regarding specific products.

In order to produce a guide with the most comprehensive information we have selected to include links to specific parts of the OU, Star-K and cRc Pesach guides.

As well as a special thank you to Mr. Max Gornish - President of the Board and his fellow board members for their continued efforts to insure the success of our organization.

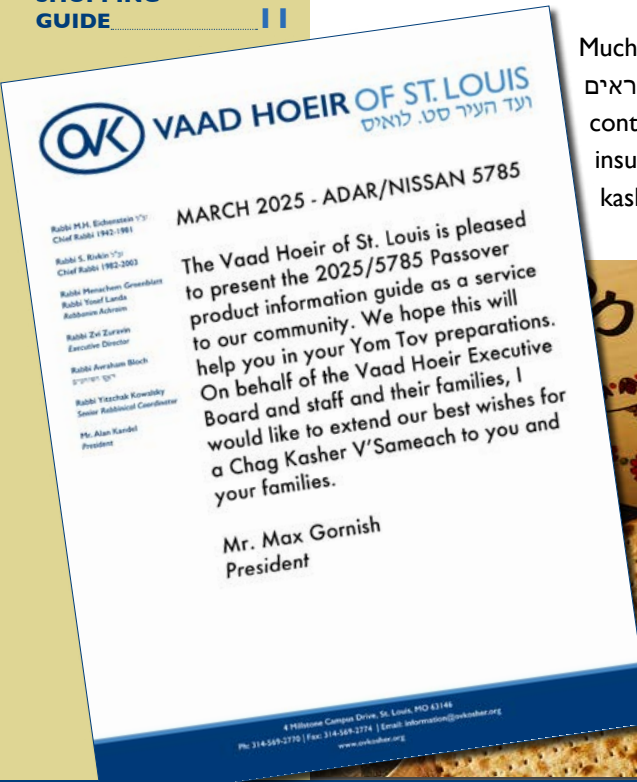
The continuous work performed daily by the Mashgichim and office staff of the Vaad Hoeir is appreciated by all kosher consumers in the St. Louis area.

### Wishing you all a Chag Kosher V'Sameach,

**Rabbi Zvi Zuravin**  
*Executive Director*

**Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky**  
*Senior Rabbinical Coordinator*

Much appreciation is due to the רבנים אחראים of the Vaad for their continuous direction and input to insuring the highest level of kashrus supervision in St. Louis.



## TO OUR DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:



### **Yetziat Mitzrayim, the exodus from Egypt, is essentially a story of ‘leaping’.**

**T**he festival of Passover is referred to in the Torah and in our Yom Tov prayers and Kiddush by several names. There is the name Chag Hamatzot, the festival of Matzot, and Zman Cheruteinu, the time of our liberation. Yet it is universally accepted, as a matter of widespread Jewish custom, to call the holiday Chag HaPesach or simply Pesach. This fact is significant and instructive to us, as it underscores an important focal point of this central holiday, which our sages refer to as the “head of all festivals”. This is especially so as Passover commemorates our exodus from ancient Egyptian bondage, an event which we are enjoined by the Torah to remember, not only on Passover, but also every day throughout the year.

The meaning of the word Pesach is “to leap”. The Torah states “Uposach Hashem”, “and G-d will leap over” and pass over the Jewish homes during the tenth plague, when G-d struck the Egyptian first-born sons at midnight on the night of the Exodus.

Leaping represents a movement that is entirely distinct from walking. Walking is orderly and deliberate. We take one step at a time, putting one foot in front of the other, step by step. It represents a standard, ordinary pattern of service of Hashem,

when we don't find ourselves in a particularly challenging “crisis mode”. Leaping, by contrast, is what we do when the gap “from here to there” that we must traverse is so enormously large and daunting that ordinary step-by-step strides won't do. We must leap, and we need to be prepared to jump high and wide...

So why is Passover bound up specifically with leaping? Because Yetziat Mitzrayim, the exodus from Egypt, is essentially a story of ‘leaping’.

For many generations our ancestors in Egypt found themselves immersed in a state of physical and spiritual slavery. Their enslavement reached such a degree, our sages teach us, that there were many Jews who did not want to leave Egypt. Such was the depth to which they had degenerated.

Egypt, in those days, was the most highly developed country in terms of science and philosophy etc. It was also the mighty “super power” of the world. At the same time, Egypt had sunk to the utter abyss of moral depravity to the point that Egypt is referred to as “the abomination of the earth”.

*Continued on next page*

# Letter From the **רבנים אחרים**



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From this quagmire of perversion, the Jews had to extricate themselves and go forth with a “raised arm” completely free, both physically and spiritually, and in a very short time thereafter to rise to the highest spiritual level, to experience G-dly revelation at Mount Sinai and receive the Torah and its Mitzvot, beginning with the Ten Commandments.

To emerge from the extremely lowly state of Egyptian culture and slavery, and reach the opposite extreme of complete “cheirut”, real freedom, inner freedom, and a state of readiness for receiving the Torah unconditionally and wholeheartedly. This called for, and indeed was, the greatest possible “leap” imaginable – the true and ultimate leap of Pesach.

Herein lies a timeless message as we prepare to celebrate Pesach. We currently find ourselves in the midst of a long, dark and bitter exile; within a materialistic and crass world surrounded by menacing enemies, and challenges – truly extraordinary challenges -- both physical and spiritual. Nevertheless, Pesach reminds us that every Jew is expected, more importantly, is empowered by Hashem to “leap” high and wide, and effectively rise above and overcome all matters of Golus, internal and external, and within “the blink of an eye” to achieve a state of true spiritual freedom and redemption, when together as one we will march to the forthcoming “final and complete” Geulah, may it be speedily in our time.

**Best wishes for a Chag Kasher V'sameach!**

**Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt**

**Rabbi Yosef Landa**



# Cleaning for Pesach



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**These notes are compiled from Rabbi Greenblatt's annual lecture to women as a guide to properly kasher for Pesach. Any questions on these halachos should please be directed to Rabbi Greenblatt.**

## I. Cleaning for Pesach:

- **As an overall rule: Pesach cleaning ≠ spring cleaning!** You can take this as an opportunity to clean your house/garage/car thoroughly, but that's not the point. For instance, dusting, weeding out your closets, etc. are not part of cleaning for Pesach, per se.
- **Clothing:** If you never put *chametz* in your pockets, then you do not have to go through cleaning them. But, since most all of us will put candy, etc. in our pockets at some time during the year, then you must go through to make sure that it's not there anymore.
- **Books:** If you want to use them at the table that you are eating on Pesach, then you should clean them out. This is because if you have even the smallest crumb in a book, and then bring it to the table and it mixes with your Pesach food, you may have rendered your food and dishes *trief*. You should not use *benchers* that you normally use during the year on Pesach. Put them away with the rest of the *chametz* stuff that you are going to sell.
- **Pets:** One cannot feed their pets *chametz* food, because if you own the pet and the pet benefits from the food, then you benefit from the food.
- **School projects:** One does not need to get rid of the cute noodle projects since the *chometz* on them is rendered inedible.
- **Toys for outside only:** These do not need to be thoroughly cleaned. A simple inspection will suffice.
- **Anything truly beyond one's reach** does not need to be cleaned. For instance, if there is a space between your



countertop in the kitchen and your fixed stove, then you do not need to try to squeeze between there or move the stove to clean that space. But, movable appliances (like many refrigerators) should be moved in order to clean behind and around them. A good rule of thumb is that if you do not move a piece of furniture during the year (i.e. a big dresser) then you do not need to move it to clean for Pesach.

- **Small kitchen appliances** (i.e. toasters, bread makers) that one is not going to use on Pesach do not need to be cleaned. Just put them away with the things that will be sold.
- Stains (like on books or clothing) are not a problem.

## II. Kashering the Kitchen:

- Materials that can be *kashered* include metal, wood, natural stone and natural rubber.
- Materials that cannot be *kashered* include earthenware (ceramics), plastic, other synthetics.
- Regarding glass vessels, there is a possibility for them to be *kashered* with a special method called *milui virui*. It involves soaking the glass for 24 hours, three times. If one needs to do this, consult your Rav.
- The way to *kasher* something is dependent on the way in which it is used. In general, there are three ways to *kasher* items listed above.
  - o *Hagalah* (via boiling water)
  - o *Libun Kal* (dry heat which is hot enough to singe straw)
  - o *Libun Gamur* (dry heat which is glowing hot)
- In general, before anything can be *kashered* (as delineated below), it should be thoroughly cleaned and then left unused for 24 hours. For things that cannot be totally cleaned and will always have a bit of grime left over, one should use a

# Cleaning for Pesach



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caustic or ammonia-containing cleanser. The reason for this is that these cleaners render the grime that is left over *batul* (void and totally unfit to be eaten).

- When one *kashers* vessels by method of *hagalah* it can be accomplished by one of the following methods:
  - o Boil water in a tea kettle that you normally use during the year (after it has been cleaned).
  - o Put the items that need to be *kashered* into a pot of boiling water. One should ideally use a Pesach pot for this purpose. But, one can also use a pot from year-round use that has been cleaned well and has not been used for the past 24 hours. The *minhag* is to *re-kasher* the pot if you used a Pesach pot to *kasher* the utensils.
- **Refrigerator:** Since there are no hot foods in the fridge, there is no need to *kasher* it. All one needs to do is clean it thoroughly and empty it of any *chametz* (or separate the *chametz* items and cover them away). One does not need to line the shelves with anything. If it is your tradition to cover the shelves, you should punch holes in the covering so that the air can circulate through the fridge.
- **Tables & Countertops:** If they are made of synthetic materials, there is no way to *kasher* them for Pesach and they should be covered with any material that prevents liquid or heat from seeping through (i.e. plywood, plexiglass, contact paper etc.). If they are made of natural granite or stainless steel, you can *kasher* them by *hagalah* (pouring boiling water over the area).
- **Sinks:** Stainless steel sinks can be *kashered* by *hagalah*. They should be thoroughly cleaned but can be used for the next 24 hours before the *kashering*, if one only uses cold water. The

boiling water needs to be poured over the entire sink, as well as the faucet and handles.

- **Garbage disposal:** clean by pouring down bleach and boiling water.
- **Spray nozzle from the kitchen sink:** These are very difficult to clean and *kasher*, secondary to the small holes. The best thing is to buy a new one at a place like Home Depot. They cost a few dollars.
- **Oven:**
  - o If self-cleaning: These are *kashered* by *libun*. One should first remove any actual pieces of *chametz*, then let it run through a self-cleaning cycle. This *kashers* the oven as well as the racks inside. One does not need to wait 24 hours before *kashering* a self-cleaning oven.
  - o If not self-cleaning: Clean it very well with a caustic cleaner, then put it on the highest temperature setting (550°F or broil) for 1.5 hours. Ideally, one should put a disposable aluminum pan with water in the oven during the last half-hour so that the steam can also *kasher* it (by *hagalah*).
- **Stove:**
  - o If gas: Clean all the components (drip pans, grates and caps) very well, and then place them in the oven while you are *kashering* the oven. Alternatively, you can put pans of water over the burners and then turn them on high for about 20-30 minutes. This will spread the flame and *kasher* the burner grate. If one has a self-cleaning oven, beware of putting the components inside, since the heat from the self-cleaning cycle may ruin their enamel finish. Instead, apart from *kashering* the oven,



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- one can put it on 550°F (like the regular oven) and then put the stove components inside for *kashering*. Note, if you don't *kasher* the drip pans, then they should be covered with foil or purchase new ones for Pesach.
- o If electric: Clean and then turn it on to the highest setting and let it become red-hot for a few minutes.
  - o Stovetop: Should be cleaned very well, and then covered with a double layer of foil.
  - o Stove knobs: Clean very well, does not need to be covered.
  - o Exhaust fan above: Clean with a caustic/ammonia cleaner
  - o Vents that come up to the stove that is on top of an oven: Clean with a caustic/ammonia cleaner.
- **Utensils:** Metal ones that are used during the rest of the year can be *kashered* by *hagalah* after you clean them well and don't use them for 24 hours. This is not true for knives because of the handle/blade interface.
  - **Freezer Ice Maker:** Clean it well, as one tends to put their *schmutzy* hands in there all year round.
  - **Microwave:** They are harder to *kasher* for Pesach. Either do without it (since you only have 3-4 days between the Yom Tovim to use it anyway) or buy a new one for your Pesach investments.
  - **Urn for hot water:** These are very hard to *kasher* for Pesach since the steam from the hot drinks, made under the spigot during the year comes up into the spigot. Either get a new one or ask your Rav specifically about this.
  - **Dishwasher:** Since there are many plastic components contained within, it cannot be *kashered* for Pesach.
  - **Tablecloths:** Wash them in hot water with detergent, they can then be used on Pesach.

### III. Miscellaneous:

- One should preferably buy all the eggs they will need for Pesach before the holiday starts.
- Beware of things that have powder coatings (i.e. gloves for washing dishes). This powder is often made from a corn base and is problematic for Ashkenazim.



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## Thursday, April 10

**Taanis Bechorim - (Fast of the Firstborn)**

## Thursday Night, April 10

### Bedikas Chametz

On Thursday night after 8:18pm, one should immediately perform Bedikas Chametz (Search for Leaven). The beracha and kol chamira are recited.

## Friday - Erev Shabbos, April 11

### Burning of the Chametz

must be completed by 11:44am according to the Magen Avraham or by 11:56am according to the GR"A.

### Bitul Chametz (Nullification of the Chametz)

Nullification of the Chametz - must be completed by 11:44am according to the Magen Avraham or by 11:56am according to the GR"A.

## Motzei Shabbos - April 12

### 1st Night of Pesach

Candle lighting time not before 8:20 pm.

## Sunday, April 13

### 2nd Night of Pesach

Candle lighting is not before 8:21pm

Note: The beracha of She'hecheyanu is recited with the candle lighting on the first and second nights only.

### Chatzos (Midnight)

For the first two nights of Pesach is at 1:02 am

## Friday - Erev Shabbos, April 18

### 7th Night of Pesach

Candle lighting time is 7:22pm

## Motzei Shabbos, April 19

### 8th Night of Pesach

Candle lighting is not before 8:27pm

## Sunday, April 20

**Yizkor is said on the 8th day of Pesach**

### Passover Ends

Pesach ends with nightfall at 8:28pm

**Note: Those who sold their chametz through their Rav should allow at least 30 minutes at the end of Pesach, for the Rav to buy the chametz back.**

## Millstone Mikvah Schedule for Men:

April 11th Erev Shabbos - Hours TBD

Friday, April 18th Erev Yom Tov (2nd Days) - Hours TBD

## Shabbos Mikvah Schedule for Men:

Thursday April 10th through Sunday April 13th- Not Available

Monday April 14th through Wednesday April 16 - Available

Thursday April 17th - Shabbos April 19 - Not Available

Sunday April 20th (Last day of Pesach) - Available



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## The Rabbi Sholom Rivkin Tzedakah Merle Hartstein Maos Chitim Fund

Please consider making a gift to The Rabbi Sholom Rivkin Tzedakah/ Merle Hartstein Maos Chitim Campaign. These funds provide many families in our community with assistance for Passover and during the year. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please make your checks payable to Maos Chitim and send to Vaad Hoer 4 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146. Credit/Debit Cards donations also can be made online by going to [www.stlmaoschitim.com](http://www.stlmaoschitim.com)

## Hag'olas Kalim - Kashering Utensils for Passover

Kashering utensils for Passover use will take place, G-d willing, **Sunday April 6th. Time will be from 10am-1pm.** We will only be kashering kiddush cups and cutlery necessary for Pesach.

## Kelim Mikvah

The Keilim Mikvah located on the Millstone Campus. The Kelim Mikvah is accessible through a rear door entrance. The code to enter is aleph, gimmel, hey. Please use the parking lot in the front of the building.

## Shatnes Testing

The Vaad Hoer Shatnes Center in memory of Barbara Mendelson is located at the home of Hillel Anton, 915 Dalkeith Lane in University City. Please call 314-997-4416 prior to dropping off and picking up to make sure someone is home. Mr. Asher Spetner is also available to check for shatnes. He can be reached at - 314-368-1729.

## Items Produced Locally for Pesach under OVK certification:

### MILK (Fresh):

**Schnucks & Dierbergs** will be carrying a variety of brands of white milk in plastic gallon and 1/2 gallon jugs, which will have a P or KP in the date code (e.g. 04/22/25P). This milk is not Cholov Yisroel, but uses Passover certified vitamins.

**Cholov Yisroel milk** will also be available in **Schnucks-Ladue**. Please look for the special Passover designation.

### NUTS (RAW) & DRIED FRUIT:

**Mound City:** when bearing the OVK Kosher for Passover sticker.





# Medicine & Cosmetics



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**The following is an adaptation of a Halachic statement released by the cRc regarding medicine, cosmetics and toiletries for Pesach. The Rabbanim Achraim of the Vaad Hoeir have adopted this Pesach policy regarding medicines, cosmetics and toiletries.**

**Important: Do not discontinue use of liquid, chewable or any other medicine without consulting with your doctor and Rabbi.**

## Medicines Guidelines

- All pill medication – with or without chametz – that one swallows are permitted. Vitamins and food supplements do not necessarily fall into this category.
- Liquid and chewable medications that may contain chametz should only be used under the direction of a doctor and Rabbi, who will judge the severity of the illness, the likelihood that the medicine contains chametz, and the possibility of substituting a swallowable pill.
- Liquid and chewable medications that contain kitnios may be consumed by someone who is ill.
- For the general laws of taking medicine on Shabbos and Yom Tov, please consult your Rabbi.

## Cosmetics & Toiletries

- All varieties of blush, body soap, creams, eye shadow, eyeliner, face powder, foot powder, ink, lotions, mascara, nail polish, ointments, paint, shampoo, and stick deodorant are permitted for use on Pesach.
- Many liquid deodorants, hairsprays, perfumes, colognes, and shaving lotions contain denatured alcohol, and therefore should not be used on Pesach unless they are listed as chametz-free on a reliable list of Pesach products. Such products manufactured in the USA may be used.
- Lipstick, mouthwash and toothpaste which contain chametz should not be used.

## An Important Reminder

As a reminder to the public to be aware that just because a product is found in the “Kosher for Passover” section of a supermarket, does not necessarily mean it is Kosher for Passover. Most food products require special certification for Passover. Look for a “P” designation next to the kosher symbol, or specific “Kosher L’Pesach” mention made on the product. Since there are some products on the market that say “Kosher for Passover,” **but contain kitnios** (such as peanuts, beans, peas, similar items from the legume family, corn, bean sprouts, alfalfa sprouts, green beans, mustard, and foods derived from these) or other

problematic ingredients, we recommend that consumers use accepted national certifications such as the OV, OU, OK, Kof-K, cRc, Star-K, etc. It is very important to check every label. Local St. Louis supermarkets do not consult the Vaad regarding Passover products. Often they do not even separate Kosher for Passover from Non-Kosher for Passover items. Only Kohn’s is under Vaad Hoeir supervision.

**Please do not hesitate to call the Vaad office with any questions, especially if you are in doubt.**



# Quick Links for Pesach



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## Quick Web Links for Pesach Certification Lists:

- The cRc has created an online tool to determine if a specific lipstick product is acceptable for Passover..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for OU products acceptable without P..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- List of OU Infant Formulas & Nutritional Supplements..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick personal care list..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick medicine list..... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Link for Star-K quick-pick pet food list..... [CLICK HERE](#)



# Shopping Guide



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## List of Non-Food Items that Do Not Require Passover Certification

**Air Freshener** (only solid, not liquid)

**Aluminum foil**

**Aluminum baking pans**

**Baby oil, ointments & powder** (talc)

**Bags** (paper or plastic)

**Band Aids**

**Body wash**

**Bowl and tub cleaners**

**Candles**

**Cardboard**

**Carpet cleaners**

**Charcoal**

**Cheese Clothes**

**Coffee Filters**

**Conditioners**

**Contact Lens Solution**

**Contact Paper**

**Cosmetics** (except lipstick - need to ascertain does not contain chometz)

**Crock Pot Liners**

**Cupcake holders**

**Cups** (paper, plastic or Styrofoam)

**Deodorants** (All stick are acceptable, liquid - need to ascertain does not contain chometz. All that are manufactured in USA are acceptable)

**Dental Floss/Tape** (any unflavored including waxed are acceptable)

**Detergents** (laundry and dishwashing)

**Drain openers**

**Fabric protectors**

**Furniture polish**

**Glass cleaners**

**Hair gels, sprays and mousse** (All that are manufactured in the USA are acceptable. If not, need to ascertain that it does not contain chometz.)

**Hand Sanitizers**

**Hydrogen Peroxide**

**Insecticides** (Sprays, some traps contain chometz)

**Isopropyl alcohol**

**Jewelry polish**

**Latex Gloves** (only powder free, not powderless or with powder)

**Lotions**

**Napkins**

**Nail Polish**

**Nail Polish Remover**



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## List of Non-Food Items that Do Not Require Passover Certification

**Oven cleaners**

**Paper towels**

**Petroleum Jelly**

**Perfumes** (All that are manufactured in the USA are acceptable. If not, need to ascertain that it does not contain chometz.)

**Plastic containers**

**Plastic Wrap**

**Plates (paper, plastic or**

**Styrofoam)**

**Scouring pads**

**Shampoos**

**Shaving cream, gels & lotions**

**Silver polish**

**Skin cream**

**Soaps**

**Suntan lotion**

**Tissues**

**Water filters**

**Wax for Braces**

**Wax paper**

