

# CHAMETZ

**On the "light" (i.e. night) of the 14th of Nissan, we search for Chametz to the light of a candle.** Thus starts the first mishna in P'sachim.

This year, B'dikat Chametz takes place on Tuesday, March 31 - after dark.

In Jerusalem, after 7:25pm. Elsewhere in Israel doesn't vary much. You might want to wait five more minutes or so.

It is preferable to daven Maariv first because of TADIR - when there are two mitzvot to perform, the more frequently performed mitzva (usually) goes first. Someone with a fixed Maariv minyan later at night can do B'dika without first davening Maariv.

Texts for B'dika, nullification, burning, and second statement of nullification follow.

On Wednesday morning, Erev Pesach - 14th of Nissan (April 1st) we may eat Chametz until the end of the 4th hour of the day.

Jerusalem: Until 10:35am (elsewhere check with your local Rav or calendar). This time is Minhag Yerushalayim (GR"A).

Stricter time (Magen Avraham and S'faradi practice) is 10:05am.

The deadline for sale of Chametz, burning Chametz and nullification of Chametz is until the end of the 5th hour of the day.

Jerusalem: 11:40am. Stricter: 11:24am.

Ashkenazim can rely on the later (GR"A) times or be machmir, if they choose, and use the Magen Avraham's earlier times. S'faradim (Eidot Mizrach) use the earlier times.

The Torah forbids eating and possessing Chametz from noon, the end of the 6th halachic hour. The Sages added an extra two hours for eating and one hour for benefit. Care should be taken to begin burning with enough time for the job to be done before the deadline. Certainly, the BITUL (nullification) declaration should be made before the end of the 5th hour.

# Search for Chametz

On the eve of the 14th of Nisan, one conducts a "final" search for chametz (including home, office, car, garage, machsan), after which the location of all chametz (to be eaten, to be burned, to be sold) should be known. The search is traditionally conducted to the light of a candle (feather and wooden spoon are also traditional). Flashlight can be helpful. The search is preceded by the bracha below, which covers the search, statement of nullification, burning of chametz on Wednesday morning, and the second statement of nullification after the burning.



Some say this passage before the b'racha, as a way of focusing one's kavana (others just say the b'racha)

הַרִינִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזוּמָן לְקַיֵּם מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה וְלֹא תַעֲשֶׂה שֶׁל בְּדִיקַת חֵמֶץ, לְשֵׁם יְחִוּד  
קוֹדֶשׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא וְשִׁכְנִיתִיהָ עַל יְדֵי הַהוּא טָמִיר וְנִעְלָם בְּשֵׁם כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיְהִי נֶעַם  
אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ, וּמַעֲשֵׂה יַדֵּינוּ כּוֹנֵנָה עָלֵינוּ, וּמַעֲשֵׂה יַדֵּינוּ כּוֹנֵנָהּ.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,  
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בְּעוֹר חֵמֶץ.

After the search, this statement of nullification should be said

כָּל חֵמֶירָא וְחִמְיָא דְאַכָּא בְּרִשׁוּתֵי דְלָא חִמְתָּהּ וְדְלָא בְּעִרְתָּהּ  
וְדְלָא יִדְעָנָא לֵיהּ לְבַטְלֵי וְלִהְיֵי הֶפְקֵר כְּעַפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

Since the statement must be understood, one can also say it in English...

**Any chametz that is in my possession, which I have not seen (found), have not removed, and do not know about, should be nullified and become ownerless, like the dust of the earth.**

# Burning the Chametz

On Wednesday morning, ideally during the 5th hour of the day, after chametz is forbidden to eat but before "benefit" is forbidden), we burn the chametz and make a 2nd statement of nullification. Burning may be done earlier. Most importantly - not later than 11:40/11:05-ish.



Some say this; some don't

הריני מוכן ומזומן לקיים מצות עשה ולא תעשה של שריפת חמץ לשם יחוד קודשא בריך הוא ושכינתיה על ידי ההוא טמיר ונעלם בשם כל ישראל: ויהי נעם

As the chameitz is burning,  
make the second declaration  
of nullification...

כל חמירא וחמיצה דאכא ברשותי דחזתה ודלא חזתה, דחמתה ודלא חמתה,  
דבערתה ודלא בערתה, לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא.

Also in English, if necessary...

**Any chametz that is in my possession, whether I have recognized it or not, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, should be annulled and become ownerless, like the dust of the earth.**

Some add the following for ridding themselves of the spiritual analog of chametz

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו כשם שאני מבער חמץ מביתי ומרשותי כך ה' אלהי ואלהי אבותי תבער את כל החיצונים ואת רוח הטומאה תבער מן הארץ ואת יצרנו הרע תבערהו מאתנו ותתן לנו לב בשר וכל הסטרא אחרא וכל הרשעה כעשן תכלה ותעביר ממשלת זדון מן הארץ וכל המעיקים לשכינה תבערם ברוח בער וברוח משפט כשם שבערת את מצרים ואת אלהיהם בימים ההם ובזמן הזה אמן: