



When Erev Pesach Falls on Shabbat...5768

An overview by Rabbi Moshe Shulman
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There are a number of special concerns and laws unique to a year when Erev Pesach falls on Shabbat. Please read the following overview carefully, and feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. Explanations of these laws have been placed in the footnotes. A summary of important dates and times has been included on the back page for your convenience. (Note: All times listed in this pamphlet are the latter times (GR"A). The earlier times (M"A) are listed on the chart on the back page.)

1. Shabbat Hagadol drasha – early

The traditional Shabbat Hagadol lecture is delivered on April 12, the week before Shabbat Hagadol (April 19th), since this lecture typically addresses practical halachic questions which need to be applied during the week before Pesach.

2. Fast of the First Born - Thursday

The fast of the First-Born will take place on Thursday, April 17¹ (beginning at 4:58am and ending at 8:25pm). Of course, as on other years, there will, iy”H, be a Siyum after Shacharit that morning, and **any first-born participating in that Siyum (and the subsequent breakfast/Seudat Mitzvah) is exempt from fasting.** (Shacharit begins at 6:30am)

¹ This fast, which usually takes place on Erev Pesach, must be moved forward, because except for Yom Kippur, one is not allowed to fast on Shabbat. In addition, fasting is generally not allowed on Erev Shabbat either, so the fast is moved forward two days, to Thursday.

3. Search for Chametz - Thursday

The search for Chametz will take place on Thursday evening, April 17th, immediately after nightfall 8:25 p.m.² It is performed in the usual manner, by candle-light, with the normal blessing and declaration of nullification / ביטול of the Chametz. (The nullification / ביטול will be repeated Shabbat morning.)

4. Burning of Chametz - Friday

The chametz is burned in the usual manner, Friday, April 18th, preferably before 11:54am. However, since one may still eat Chametz throughout the day, as well as Shabbat morning (see below - Shabbat Meals), some Chametz may be left over, and not burnt. Care must be taken that only enough Chametz be left such that it will be completely finished by on Shabbat morning, and it must be stored carefully so as not to spread throughout the house.

(Note: Those who use egg matzah instead of Challah on Shabbat, see below, do not have to leave any chametz over on Shabbat.)

The declaration of nullification (ביטול), usually recited at the time of burning the Chametz, is NOT recited on Friday in a case where Chametz has been left over to be eaten during the day (as described above). Instead, that paragraph should be recited on Shabbat, no later than 11:52am.

5. Sale of Chametz - Friday

The sale of Chametz will take place on Friday morning, April 18th. Please make sure you sign the authorization forms (included in the bulletin) and return them to the office NO LATER than Tuesday, April 15th. You may also fax or email the forms to the office if you like.

² The search must take place by candle-light, and so cannot be done on Shabbat. In addition, any *Chametz* found must be burned the following morning, which also cannot be done on Shabbat.

Any Chametz left over after burning, which you are planning to use on Friday afternoon, or Shabbat morning, WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE SALE. This Chametz must be completely consumed before the time of the prohibition of Chametz Shabbat morning, the fourth hour of the day – **10:46am**, or destroyed and removed from your premises (e.g., flushed down the toilet) before the fifth hour of the day, **11:52am**.

6. Kashering of dishes - Friday

All kashering of utensils for Pesach use must be completed before Shabbat. However, unlike normal years, this need not be completed by the morning, since the time when Chametz becomes prohibited is not till the next day! One has until Shabbat candle lighting to complete this. However, the custom is to try to complete this kashering process by Friday morning (**11:52am**) in order not to distinguish the routine from ‘normal’ years.

7. Shabbat Meals – Lechem Mishneh

Generally, on Erev Pesach one may eat Chametz up until the end of the fourth hour of the day³ (**10:46am**), but there is NO requirement that one MUST eat Chametz. However, on Shabbat, there is a requirement to have three meals, the first two of which must include bread (two rolls, or Lechem Mishneh). This is problematic, if the house must be ready for Pesach before Shabbat! How does one have bread at the meal, and yet be ready for Pesach? The obvious solution would be to use Pesach Matzah, but this too is not permitted, because we are not permitted to eat regular Matzah on Erev Pesach, in order to have a stronger appetite for Matzah at the seder.⁴ This is the major issue created by the unique circumstance

of Erev Pesach on Shabbat.⁵

Therefore, all food prepared for Shabbat should be Pesachdik, prepared and served on Pesach utensils.

What should one do for Hamotzi and lechem mishneh?

Solution A: Small Rolls. Use small rolls, that can be consumed without left-overs, and try to avoid any crumbs. For this approach, care should be taken that no pesach utensils be brought to the table until after Hamotzi, and all the challah has been consumed. (One can also make hamotzi outside, and have the rest of the meal inside, to avoid the problem.)

Solution B: Egg matzah. Alternatively, challah can be substituted with PESACH EGG MATZAH!⁶ This avoids the problem of having to leave over Chametz for Shabbat altogether. While there is a great deal of discussion around the egg matzah solution, one can use this for Hamotzi if they wish.

In both cases, however, the lechem mishneh (challah or egg matzah) can only be eaten up until the time of the prohibition of Chametz (**10:46am**).⁷ See the next section for the update on the schedule. After all chametz has been consumed, the bittul (nullification) paragraph should be recited, and in all cases no later than

⁵ It is possible to prepare Chametz meals, served on disposable dishes, with two rolls of bread. However, there are numerous pitfalls and problems that must be anticipated with this kind of arrangement, including how to wash off the Chametz from the dishes, since that is not allowed on this Shabbat! This solution is, therefore, not recommended.

⁶ Normally, we are not allowed to eat Matzah on Erev Pesach, but that only applies to matzah which can be used to fulfill the obligation of the Seder. Egg matzah cannot be used for the Seder, and therefore CAN be used on Friday night and Shabbat morning. Be aware that except for the sick, elderly, or small children, egg matzah should not be eaten at all throughout Pesach.

⁷ Sephardim permit the use of egg matzah throughout Pesach, and therefore on Erev Pesach as well.

³ All hours referred to here are Halachic hours, derived by dividing the time from sunrise to sunset into 12 equal parts.

⁴ This is completely independent of those who have a custom not to eat Matzah throughout the month of Nisan.

11:52am.

8. Schedule for April 19th.

The morning meal, therefore, must begin early enough so as to complete the eating of lechem mishneh by the 4th hour of the day (**10:46am**). (The rest of the meal, including bentsching, can continue afterwards, but the Matzah must be finished before that time.) As such, **davening that Shabbat morning will begin at 7:00am** for the entire shul.

9. Seudah Shlishit –April 19th

Even the above solution of egg matzah for lechem mishneh is insufficient to provide a solution for hamotzi at Seudah Shlishit.⁸ Many authorities say that one may fulfill the obligation of Seudah Shlishit without bread or Matzah, eating fish, eggs, fruit, etc. A third meal, therefore, should be eaten, after mid-day (6½ hours **or 1:30pm**). Care should be taken to follow the normal restrictions for menu for this Shabbat (see paragraph 10 below).⁹

10. Restrictions for Shabbat Menu

No BAKED food containing Matzah meal (cakes, cookies, etc.) may be eaten on Shabbat, after the fourth hour, **10:46am**¹⁰

Food COOKED with Matzah meal (e.g.

⁸ For Ashkenazim, Egg Matzah can only be used until the fourth hour, as mentioned earlier. It is conceivably possible to fulfill Seudah Shlishit in the following way. In the morning, wash and eat a *kazayit* of egg Matzah, *bentch* on the Matzah (thereby finishing the second Shabbat meal), take a short walk, return and wash again on egg Matzah all before 10:57 a.m., thus effectively turning “lunch” into Seudah Shlishit. However, there are opinions that require *seudah shlishit* to take place after mid-day, and this solution would not work according to them.

⁹ There is a *kabbalistic* opinion, recorded in the Aruch Hashulchan (OC 444) that states that on this Shabbat one can replace the food of Seudah Shlishit with Torah learning.

¹⁰ Some opinions prohibit eating food baked with matzah meal throughout Erev Pesach.

Kneidlech) may be eaten, but only until the ninth hour **4:23pm**

Food made with potato flour or potato starch may be eaten throughout the day.

11. Seder Preparations

No preparations may be made for the Seder on Shabbat. This includes setting up table and chairs, or preparing the table or food in any way.

The Seder plate should be prepared before Shabbat, wherever possible. This especially concerns the preparation of the following: (1) Charoset, (2) Broiling of bone and egg. (3) Marror, including cleaning and selecting leaves of lettuce, or grinding of horseradish.¹¹

12. Candle Lighting

Before lighting candles, or doing any kind of preparation for the Seder after Shabbat is over (**8:24pm**), the following statement should be made by anyone not present at the Synagogue services, or davening Ma'ariv: BARUCH HAMAVDIL BEIN KODESH LE'KODESH ("Blessed is He who distinguishes between one Sanctity and another.")

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Moshe Shulman

¹¹ These items pose particular problems in preparing them on Yom Tov, and, as mentioned, cannot be prepared on Shabbat. As much preparation as possible should be done before Shabbat, because we do not want to delay the starting of the Seder any more than is absolutely necessary.

TIME SCHEDULE - PESACH 5768/2008		
EVENT	DATE	TIME MA – Magen Avraham GR”A – Vilna Gaon
Taanit Bechorim (siyum)	Thursday - April 17 th .	Begins: 4:58am
Bedikat chametz	Thursday Evening – April 17 th	After 8:25 pm
Burning of chometz	Friday – April 18 th	MA - 11:42 am GR”A - 11:54 am (be’di’avad – all day long)
Shabbat candles	Friday – April 18 th	7:24pm
Last time for eating of chametz <i>שעת איסור חמץ</i>	Shabbat - April 19 th	MA - 10:22 am GR”A - 10:46 am
Nullification of chametz <i>שעת ביעור חמץ</i>	Shabbat - April 19 th	MA - 11:40 am GR”A - 11:52 am
Yom Tov candles – 1st Night	Motzei Shabbat – April 19 th Shehechiyanu	NOT BEFORE 8:24 pm.
1st Seder	Motzei Shabbat – April 19 th	
Latest Time for Afikomen	By chatzot (mid-night)	1:00 am. (1st & 2nd Seder)
Yom Tov candles – 2nd Night	Sunday Evening – April 20 th Shehechiyanu	NOT BEFORE 8:25 pm
2nd Seder – 1st Omer	Sunday Evening – April 20 th	
Yom Tov candles – 7th Night	Friday Evening – April 25 th (No Shehechiyanu)	7:30pm
Yom Tov candles – 8th Night	Motzei Shabbat – April 26 th (No Shehechiyanu)	NOT BEFORE 8:32 pm
Yizkor	Sunday – April 27 th	