



Halachos & Hints for Bedikas Chametz

Harav Boruch Hirschfeld, שליט"א



Mindset

Pesach cleaning should be a constructive, inspiring, joyful Yom Tov preparation.

Bracha

It is preferable to leave one small area that has not been "Pre Pesach Cleaned" (for example, the basement area where one is still eating Chametz) for the night of Bedikas Chametz, so that one clearly has an obligation. He should make the Bracha and start his bedika in this unchecked area. (Kovetz Mibeis Levi)

10 Pieces

The 10 pieces of chametz should be set out by an adult who writes down or remembers clearly where he put them.

Size of Pieces

Each one of the 10 pieces should clearly be less than a Kezayis in volume (i.e., less than 1/3 egg). All 10 should clearly total a Kezayis (i.e., 1/2 egg).

Leaving for Yom Tov

If one leaves early and checks the night before he leaves (without a bracha), it is still preferable to place 10 pieces and then take them with him to burn on Erev Pesach.

Nature of Bedika

One should not just look for the 10 pieces and finish his bedika after the tenth piece is found. Rather, he should continue seriously checking around the house for any pieces of chametz which could be large enough to eat at some point.

Check Everywhere

Even a "Pesach cleaned" area should be quickly checked. This is like returning a rental car after everyone else has removed his items, and then giving one last check to verify that everything has been removed.

Pesach Food Locations

During "pre Pesach cleaning", in areas that will be stocked with Pesach goods, such as refrigerators and freezers, one can have in mind that his cleaning is his bedika. If a gentile cleans there, one can check the work, and that will qualify as his bedika for that area.

Time

The ideal time to start checking is 42 minutes after shkia. If one davens Maariv first, then he should check right after Maariv.

Lights

Leave on room lights. Candles (or flashlight where candles are not practical) are for dark and shady areas.

Toasters

Toasters should be shaken out and put away in a taped cabinet to be sold with the chametz.

Suitcases

Suitcases should be checked for chametz. Ideally, when one returns from his last trip before Pesach, he should clean and check them before putting them away.

Houseguests

If someone going away for Yom Tov lends out his house, the areas that will be used must be checked by the owner or guest. The rest can be taped off and sold (or checked). 