

KEEPING
KOSHER
= FOR =
PASSOVER
For Home Care Workers

INTRODUCTION

"Keeping Kosher for Passover (Pesach)" has been prepared as a supplement to "A Basic Guide To Keeping Kosher, for home care workers", which was a project of the Bronx Jewish Community Council Inc. (BJCC) with a grant from the Harry and Jane Fischel Foundation. It is intended to help home care workers prepare the client's home for this spring festival which is observed for eight days. Passover recalls the Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. The first two nights of Passover are celebrated with a traditional feast called the Seder at which the story of the Exodus from Egypt is read from the Haggadah. Seder in Hebrew means 'order' and refers to the traditional order of the Passover rituals and ceremonial meal. Your client is dependent on you and therefore it is important that you are knowledgeable about the specifics that constitute Keeping Kosher for Passover.

All Jewish dietary laws and practices observed by your client during the year apply to Passover as well. Additionally, no *chometz* may be eaten or owned during the entire eight days of Passover. This is one of the most important kosher rules governing the celebration of Passover. *Chometz* is a mixture of flour and water that has been allowed to rise, either naturally or through a leavening agent. The possession or eating of all varieties of bread are prohibited, as well as noodles (or any other pasta product), cakes, cookies or pastries made of flour. Products containing wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt and their derivatives, and all types of hot and cold cereal are considered *chometz*, and are not to be eaten unless they have the appropriate kosher symbol and the words, *Kosher for Passover*. Many Eastern European Jews also do not eat various grains (rice, kasha, etc.), beans (peas, lentils, etc.) and corn. Derivatives of these products such as corn starch, corn oil, peanuts, and soy flour may also be prohibited. Consult your client to determine which of these products they are traditionally prohibited from eating.

SPECIAL PREPARATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE JEWISH HOME FOR PASSOVER.

The home must be thoroughly cleaned of all *chometz* before Passover. It is wise to begin cleaning a couple of weeks before Passover. Every room must be thoroughly cleaned and *chometz* removed. The following list will help you search and clean thoroughly:

- bedroom
- beds
- behind furniture
- bookcase
- books
- bread boxes
- cabinets
- carpets
- chairs
- closets
- clothes
- couch
- desk
- drawers
- freezer
- furniture
- garbage pail
- kitchen
- kitchen appliances
- medicine cabinet
- oven
- pockets
- purses
- radiators
- refrigerator
- shopping cart
- sink
- sink area
- storage room
- stove
- table
- telephone
- utility drawers
- vacuum cleaner

THE KITCHEN

The cleaning of the kitchen is extremely important because that is where all the *chometz* was kept and prepared during the year. It is also where Passover food preparation will take place. All traces of *chometz* must be scrubbed out, and shelves, countertops and eating surfaces that are used year round should be cleaned and covered for Passover use. Special dish racks, sink racks and wash basins may be necessary. Cooking surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered with aluminum foil. Ovens should be thoroughly cleaned twice, and if client has a self-cleaning oven remember to use the self-cleaning cycle. A DISH/WASHER that is used during the year, MAY NOT BE USED DURING PASSOVER.

Tables and chairs should be scrubbed down thoroughly and all closets and dishes cleaned very well. If you remove the dishes that are used during the year from the shelves, you must first clean and line the shelves before putting in the Passover dishes that your client may have kept stored in a different area. All large appliances must be cleaned very well.

Kitchen appliances that are used year round may not be used on Passover, for example, toaster, food processor, blender, and can opener, etc.

Allow several complete days for the cleaning of the kitchen and preparing for Passover use. Clean out one small area or room and set it aside for storage of Passover packages. Nothing is to be put in the kitchen until it is completely ready for Passover.

Closets where *chometz* dishes are kept must be closed off and "sold" through a Rabbi. It may not be opened for the entire 8 days of the holiday.

Jewish law requires separate cooking and eating utensils for Passover, therefore your client probably has Passover cooking and eating utensils that are used exclusively for Passover. If your client does not have separate

dishes or glassware then plastic or paper goods may be used.

Eating and cooking utensils that are used during the rest of the year must be put away. All preparations and cleaning for Passover holiday must be completed by the morning before the holiday begins.

SHOPPING FOR KOSHER FOR PASSOVER FOOD PRODUCTS

All processed and packaged foods must have the better known Kosher symbols as well as either a P following the symbol or the words, Kosher for Passover.



Your client should consult his or her physician and Rabbi to ascertain that the medicines that should be taken during the holiday are approved for Passover, and any special procedures that must be followed.

IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU DID NOT BRING ANY OF YOUR OWN FOOD INTO YOUR CLIENT'S HOUSE DURING THE EIGHT DAYS OF PASSOVER.

Your diligence and care during Passover will be appreciated by your client, and undoubtedly you will be rewarded with your client's trust and appreciation.

Wishing all of our friends a
Happy and Kosher Passover

KEEPING KOSHER
FOR PASSOVER (PESACH)

Compiled and Edited by
Linda Salzhauer and Malka Bernstein

Published by
THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK
COORDINATING COUNCIL ON
JEWISH POVERTY

with a grant from
THE HARRY AND JANE FISCHER
FOUNDATION
1998

Source attribution must be given to the
Metropolitan New York Coordinating
Council on Jewish Poverty

Merryl H. Tisch, President
Menachem Lubinsky, Chairman of the Board
William E. Rapfogel, Executive Director

Graphic design and technical assistance
have been provided by
Ganz/Gross Advertising – NYC



An affiliate agency of
UJA-Federation of New York

