

Chametz

Ref: *Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Chametz, Chapter 1–6*

🏛️ | Not to eat *chametz* from 14th *Nissan* noon and onwards.¹

One cannot eat *chametz* on 14th of *Nissan* from the seventh hour of the day onwards – *Deoraita*.

I.e. we do not eat any *chametz* at the time when the *Korban Pesach* would have been sacrificed in the Temple.

📖 | The *Rabanim* prevented eating *chametz* from the 6th hour. During the 5th hour no *chametz* is eaten but benefit can be derived from it.

I.e. we do not eat any *chametz* at the time when the *Korban Pesach* would have been sacrificed in the Temple.

5 Species of grain.

The prohibition of *chametz* applies to all 5 species of *dagan* (grain) i.e.

- 2 *Chitin* (wheat)
 - *Chita* (wheat)
 - *Kusemet* (spelt)
- 3 *Seorin* (barley)
 - *Seorah* (barley)
 - *Shibolet shual* (oats)
 - *Shipon* (rye)

Kitniyot (i.e. rice, millet, beans etc.) do not become leavened and therefore not *chametz*. However, many communities disallow *kitniyot* on *Pesach* as a precaution.

When water meets grain, there is the possibility that the grain will become leavened i.e. *chametz*. Therefore, much care needs to be taken to prevent this happening.

Pure fruit juice will not cause leavening, but again many communities disallow mixing fruit juice with grains because water may have been added to the fruit juices.

These principles extend to guarding of the *matzot* from becoming *chametz* i.e.

- Make sure that no water has come into contact with the grain used for making the *matzot*
- Not to knead with hot water (this speeds up the leavening)
- To use *mayim shelanu* (water ‘which has rested’) i.e. water was drawn the previous evening and ‘rested’ overnight. Here again this means the water will be cool.
- Two containers of water, one to smooth the *matzot* and one to cool hands
- About **18 minutes** are available after kneading before leavening
- *Matzot* should not be too thick etc.

Challah separation needs dough size of **43 1/5 eggs by volume**

It is interesting that the *gematria* of חלה is **43**.

 **Reminder:**

Summary of Separations 2

Ref: *Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Bikurim*, Chapters 1 – 12



 | Eating *matzah* on the 15th *Nissan*.⁷

The minimum measure to eat is a *kezayit* (olive bulk)

The eating of *matzah* is only a *mitzvah* on the first day of *Pesach*. On the other days, eating *matzah* is a choice.

The *matzah* must have the taste of 'bread' and must have been made from one of the 5 species of grain.

 | *Derabanan* the last thing eaten at the meal on *Yom Tov* should be *matzah* so that the taste of *matzah* remains in one's mouth.

Derabanan prohibited eating of *matzah* on the day before *Pesach* so as not to detract from the *mitzvah* of eating *matzah* on the 15th of *Nissan*.