



# BEDIKAT & BI'UR CHAMETZ

SEARCHING AND BURNING CHAMETZ

————— **GUIDE** —————

THE EMOR PROJECT  
GATEWAY TO MITZVA OBSERVANCE  
SERIES

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# BEDIKAT CHAMETZ

## GUIDELINES

- The mitzva of *bedikat chametz* (searching for *chametz*) is performed this year on Tuesday night, March 31st. It is done on the night before Pesach.
- The goal of the mitzva is to search for any *chametz* that we may not have disposed of or otherwise found before Pesach.
- Although the more lengthy Pesach cleaning has usually accomplished this goal prior to the night before Pesach, it is still customary to perform *bedikat chametz* at the proper time.
- As soon as nightfall arrives (check  for the time in your location), begin preparing for the mitzva and refrain from eating or other activities.

- Before beginning the search, it is customary for one household member to hide ten small pieces of *chametz* (preferably soft, to avoid causing crumbs) in various places around the house to be “found” during the search.
- Ensure they are wrapped well and that the one hiding them keeps note of their location so they do not get lost.
- Assemble the other items needed for the search, which customarily include a candle (a flashlight may also be used, and is sometimes recommended for safety reasons) and a bag, feather, and wooden spoon to collect the *chametz* found (the search may be performed without the final three items if they are unavailable).
- When ready to start, recite the *berakha* on the mitzva, which refers to burning the *chametz*, since that is the ultimate goal of the search.

**ברוך אתה א-דני א-לוהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצוותיו  
וצונו על ביעור חמץ**

**Barukh Ata A-donai Elo-heinu Melech Ha'olam Asher  
Kideshanu Bemitzvotav Vetzivanu Al Bi'ur Chametz.**

**Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who  
has sanctified us by His commandments and has  
commanded us concerning the removal of chametz.**

- Without speaking, immediately begin the search for *chametz*. Using the candle (or flashlight), walk around the house looking for *chametz* anywhere it may have been left (refer to the Emor Project cleaning guide for more details). Avoid any conversation about other matters during the search.
- When finding each of the ten pieces or any other *chametz*, place it into the bag.
- After concluding the search, recite the declaration of "*bitul chametz*," nullifying the *chametz*:

**“All leaven or anything leavened which is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor removed, and about which I am unaware, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.”**



- Any *chametz* that one still plans to eat or use that night, should be set aside, while the *chametz* found to be burned should be set aside elsewhere for that purpose.

## GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- If one cannot perform the *bedika* at the proper time, one should do so the following day and recite a *berakha*.
- If one has already gone away for Pesach before the time for *bedikat chametz*, one should perform the *bedika* without reciting a *berakha* the night before one leaves.
- Many opinions hold that the pieces of bread and other customary practices mentioned need not be performed. If possible, appointing a representative to search one's house at the proper time is preferred.
- One need not perform a *bedika* on the night of the fourteenth of Nisan if one is visiting elsewhere. However, if one is staying in a rented hotel room that night, then one should perform a *bedika* there with a *berakha*.
- One must also perform a *bedika* if one has an office for work in a different location the last time one is there before Pesach (without a *berakha*).

# BI'UR AND BITUL CHAMETZ

## GUIDELINES

- *Bi'ur chametz* (burning of the *chametz*) takes place on Wednesday morning, April 1st, and should be completed by the end of the fifth halakhic hour (approximately 11:30 AM; see precise local times ) , as in other years.
- Take the *chametz* found during the search for *chametz* the night before, as well as any other leftover *chametz* that is not being sold, and burn it in a fire in a safe location (in coordination with local authorities when necessary; see also  for suggestions on how to burn safely).
- To fulfill the mitzva properly, burn at least a *kezayit* (olive-size) of *chametz*. Ensure the *chametz* is thrown into the fire and burned as much as possible, ideally until it turns into charcoal.

- The declaration of *bitul chametz* is recited at the time of burning.
- The declaration is similar to the one recited the night before but a bit more expansive:

**“All leaven or anything leavened which is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.”**

- *Chametz* that cannot be burned should be destroyed or rendered inedible – for example, by flushing it down the toilet or pouring oven cleaner on it and disposing of it outside one’s property.

## GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- One who finds *chametz* in the house on Pesach should destroy it immediately. If it is found during the first or last day (when it may not be moved due to the rules of *muktzeh*), it should be covered over until that night.