

SAMCHAINU GUIDE TO THE HALACHOS OF ERUV TAVSHILIN & YAKNEHAZ

A SELECTION OF LAWS & CUSTOMS WITH A FOCUS ON SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES

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The Shelah HaKadosh writes that learning and properly observing the laws of a chag infuse the Yom Tov with tremendous blessing. Please note that the laws and customs contained in this article follow the Ashkenazi custom.

WHEN YOM TOV FALLS ON A FRIDAY:

ERUV TAVSHILIN

Under normal circumstances, it is forbidden to make preparations on Yom Tov for Shabbos. When Yom Tov falls on Friday and goes directly into Shabbos, it is necessary to prepare for Shabbos on Yom Tov. An “eruv tavshilin” should be made in order to cook for Shabbos. The Eruv only allows you to prepare on Erev Shabbos, beginning Thursday night after nightfall. The Eruv does not allow cooking for Shabbos earlier than Thursday night.

The process of making the Eruv Tavshilin is as follows:

1. On Erev Yom Tov, prepare a cooked food (egg, fish, meat, etc.) and a baked item (bread, challah, or matzah).
2. Hold the items in the right hand, and say the blessing. The text can be found in a machzor.
3. Using a machzor, recite the paragraph proclaiming that since cooked and baked items were prepared before Yom Tov, this permits us to continue baking, cooking, light candles and preparing all of our Shabbos needs on Yom Tov.
4. Set aside the foods for the Eruv in a safe place, since they must remain intact until Shabbos preparations are finished. The foods of the Eruv should be eaten on Shabbos. It is preferable to use the bread as part of Seudas shlishis.

Once done, the Eruv works for all household members and guests. If you forgot to make an Eruv, consult a Rav.

WHEN YOM TOV FALLS ON A MOTZEI SHABBOS:

HAVDALAH ON MOTZEI SHABBOS OF YOM TOV

When either night of Yom Tov falls on Motzei Shabbos, then havdalah is said as part of Kiddush of the Yom Tov meal. This havdalah is referred to as “Yaknehaz”, which is an acronym for the order of the blessings said. The full text of the havdalah of “Yaknehaz” can be found in a machzor.

A regular “havdalah candle” should not be used, since the fire may not be extinguished after havdalah. Instead, the blessing of “Borei meorei ha’esh” is said on the Yom Tov candles that already have been lit. Besamim are not used.