

SAMCHAINU GUIDE TO THE HALACHOS OF SUCCOS

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

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The *של"ה הקדוש* writes that learning and properly observing the Halachos of a חג infuse the Yom Tov with tremendous Bracha. Please note that the Halachos and Minhagim contained in this article follow the custom of בני אשכנז.

הדלקת נרות

Since the Seudah will take place in the סוכה, it is ideal to light candles in the סוכה. If there is no room in the סוכה or you are hesitant to light in the סוכה for safety reasons, you should try to light in a room of the house where the candles can be seen from the סוכה. If this is not possible, the candles should be lit in a place where people will be spending time while the candles are still burning (i.e. kitchen.)

The ברכה of שהחיינו is made on both nights of the "first days" of סוכות, as well as the "second days" of שמחת/עצרת, since the "second days" are really a new טוב יום.

The following 2 ברכות are said:

1. להדליק נר של יום טוב.
2. שהחיינו.

If a woman will be making קידוש, she should omit the ברכה of שהחיינו, since she already said it when she lit candles.

When the second night of Yom Tov is Motzei Shabbos, a woman should say "Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol" before she lights candles or does any other action that is permitted on Yom Tov but forbidden on Shabbos.

מצות ישיבת סוכה

While being מקיים the מצוה of ישיבת סוכה, it is best to have in mind that Hashem commanded us to live in the סוכה as a remembrance of יציאת מצרים and also as a זכר of the ענני הכבוד which surrounded us in the מדבר, protecting us from the sun and the outside elements. At the minimum, have in mind that you are eating in the סוכה because it is a מצוה.

The זוהר calls the sukkah "צל אמונה" (the "shadow" of אמונה) and teaches us that anyone who sits in the סוכה, the שכונה, so to speak, spreads its wings upon him/ her from on high.

The חפץ חיים writes in the name of the של"ה that since the קדושה of the סוכה is so great, it is proper to try to speak דברי רכילות and לשון הרע like דברים אסורים in the סוכה. One should be especially careful not to speak דברי רכילות and לשון הרע like דברים אסורים in the סוכה. One should be especially careful not to speak דברי רכילות and לשון הרע like דברים אסורים in the סוכה.

After you finish eating, the dirty dishes should be removed from the סוכה. Even though we would typically wait to clean up from שלש סעודות until after Shabbos (to avoid הכנה – preparation for after Shabbos), on סוכות of שבת, you may clean up the dirty dishes immediately after שלש סעודות. This act does not constitute הכנה, since it is necessary for the respect of the סוכה.

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A person should not engage in any activity that is disrespectful to the סוכה (i.e. hanging laundry). The ערוך השלחן defines this principle as follows. We should treat the סוכה as we would treat a nice living space in the home. Any activity that would not be done in such an area should not be done in the סוכה. Any object that we would not leave in such an area should not be left in the סוכה.

The סוכה itself (walls and סכך) are set aside to function as a סוכה, and cannot be used for any other purpose until after Yom Tov. This applies even if the סוכה falls down on Yom Tov.

נוי סוכה

סוכה decorations cannot be used throughout Yom Tov for any purpose other than decorating the סוכה. On Yom Tov itself, decorations should not be moved for any reason. If a decoration falls on the table, you may move it off with a שינוי (in an irregular manner.)

Moving decorations on Chol Hamoed is permitted under certain circumstances. Decorations that have fallen down on Yom Tov may be hung back up on Chol Hamoed. Additionally, it is permitted on Chol Hamoed to switch decorations from one location in the סוכה to another in order to enhance the look of the סוכה. Decorations should not be removed from the סוכה, unless it is necessary to protect them from rain.

נטילת לולב

The לולב is held in the right hand, with the הדסים facing the right of the לולב.

Before the ברכות are recited, the אתרוג is lifted in the left hand, with the פיטום side facing down. After reciting the ברכה, the אתרוג should be turned over so that the פיטום side is facing upward.

On the first day, two ברכות are recited- אשר קדשנו במצוותיו וצונו על נטילת לולב - and then שהחיינו. For the remaining days of סוכות, only the ברכה of נטילת לולב is recited.

To keep Aravos and Hadassim from drying out, some recommend that when the Lulav is not in use, remove the Lulav from the bundle holder and store it in a safe place. Then wrap the bundle still containing the Aravos and Hadassim in a moistened paper towel, and place it in a refrigerator until its next use.