

Bedikat Hametz and Biur Hametz

The term **חמץ** *hametz* refers to leavened grain products. In addition to the general cleaning of the home before Passover, it is customary to complete a ritual search the night before called **בדיקת חמץ** *bedikat hametz* (the search for the *hametz*) and a formal destruction/removal ceremony called **ביעור חמץ** *biur hametz* (the destruction of *hametz*). This process symbolizes the final removal of leaven from the home.

***If the first night of Passover occurs on Shabbat, perform this ritual on Thursday evening/Friday morning instead of the night before.**

A Step-By-Step Guide

1 Place the *Hametz*

Before the search, it is customary to place small pieces of bread or other leavened items (ten pieces according to mystical tradition) in strategic places around the house so that the inspection is insured to yield results. Make sure to wrap them in paper so no crumbs get out and make a list!



2 Say the “*Bedikat Hametz*” blessing

**Barukh atah ADONAI Eloheinu melekh ha-olam
asher kidd'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivvanu al
biur hametz.**

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על
ביעור חמץ:



Praised are You ADONAI, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who, sanctifying us with divine commandments, has commanded us to destroy all hametz.

3 Search for the *Hametz*

Traditionally, one would search by candlelight and use a feather to sweep any *hametz* onto a wooden spoon. You can use a flashlight and a broom. The *hametz* items are then placed into a bag which is burned or disposed of the next morning.

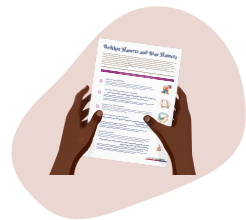


4 Say the following declaration

In whichever language you understand.

**Kol hamira v'hamia d'ika virshuti, d'la
hamiteih udla viarteih udla y'dana leih
libateil v'lehevei hefkeir k'afra d'ara.**

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאיכא ברשותי דלא
חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה
לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא:



All hametz in my possession which I have not seen or removed, or of which I am unaware, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

5 Finish the ritual

The next morning, after the last meal of hametz (check with your local rabbi for the exact time), any remaining crumbs (including the crumbs gathered the previous night) are burned or thrown out. We then make the following declaration in whichever language you understand.

**Kol hamira v'hamia d'ika virshuti
dahaziteih udla haziteih, dahamiteih udla
hamiteih, d'viarteih udla viarteih
libateil v'lehevei hefkeir k'afra d'ara.**

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאיכא ברשותי
דחזתה ודלא חזתה דחמתה ודלא
חמתה דערתה ודלא בערתה
לבטל ולהוי הפקר כעפרא דארעא:



All hametz in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.