

Halachos of
**HOUSEKEEPING
ON SHABBOS**





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Please note that the material presented is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to the halachos of Housekeeping on Shabbos. In any case of question or doubt a Rabbi should be consulted.

Halachos compiled by Rabbi Binyamin Walfish
and reviewed for publication by
Harav Alexander Mandelbaum Shlita.

For questions or comments, please contact us at
info@halachayomiforwomen.com



Halachos of HOUSEKEEPING ON SHABBOS

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Introduction - Here we go!

This month we will learn many halachos pertaining to housekeeping on Shabbos. The halachos will be divided into two parts. For the first part of the month we will discuss the halachos of washing dishes on Shabbos. In the second half of the month we will discuss halachos pertaining to general housekeeping on Shabbos.



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Day 1

One is permitted to wash dishes on Shabbos if it is anticipated that they may be used for a subsequent meal on Shabbos. Preparing on Shabbos for weekday is prohibited, therefore dishes that will certainly not be used during the rest of Shabbos may not be washed on Shabbos. One may not wash dishes on Shabbos even if they are being washed to be used the following Shabbos (i.e. a crockpot insert.) To be continued.

שו"ע ס' שכג ס"ו, ארחות שבת פכ"ב ס"ק קנח



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Day 2

It was previously mentioned that one may wash dishes on Shabbos that may be needed during the rest of Shabbos. One may even wash dishes Friday night to be used during the meal on Shabbos day.

מ"ב ס' שג סקכ"ז



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Day 3

It was previously mentioned that one may wash dishes on Shabbos that may be needed during the rest of Shabbos. One may wash such dishes even if they have other dishes that are clean. For example, on Friday night one may wash forks for the meals on Shabbos day even if there are other clean forks that could be used for those meals.

שש"כ פי"ב הערה א'



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Day 4

One who is permitted to wash a utensil on Shabbos due to anticipated further use, may wash even more of that utensil than needed. This means that one who is washing even one plate because of possible need, may wash as many plates as they want. However, this only applies to the same type of utensil; therefore, in this instance, one would not be permitted to wash any bowls.

מ"ב ס' שכג סקכ"ו



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Day 5

Although it was previously mentioned that washing dishes on Shabbos is only permitted if one anticipates subsequent Shabbos usage, cups are an exception to this rule. A person is never sure if he will take another drink later on and as such, cups are always considered likely to be used. Nonetheless, if one is certain that the cups will not be needed during the rest of Shabbos (i.e. Shabbos is almost over, the cups are only used for Kiddush, etc.), they may not be washed.

שו"ע ס' שכג ס"ו, מ"ב סקכ"ט



Day 6

Thus far we have discussed the permissibility of washing dishes on Shabbos due to anticipation of subsequent Shabbos need. We will now discuss a few scenarios that permit dishes to be washed due to other considerations. One who is concerned that if a particular dish is left unwashed, it could get damaged (i.e. the silver will get tarnished), is permitted to wash that item on Shabbos. In such an instance, the washing is not considered *preparing for after Shabbos* but rather is *preventing* something from getting ruined *on Shabbos*.

שש"כ פי"ב ס"ב



Day 7

One who has reason to be concerned that leaving unwashed dishes around will cause insects to come, is permitted to wash their dishes on Shabbos.

שש"כ פי"ב ס"ב



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Day 8

One who has guests coming on Shabbos and is embarrassed that the guests should see their kitchen dirty with unwashed dishes, is permitted to wash their dishes on Shabbos.

שש"כ פי"ב הערה ח'



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Day 9

In the event that it is permitted to wash dishes on Shabbos, the prevalent *minhag* is to allow the use of dish soap, notwithstanding the bubbles that are created at times during the process.

שש"כ פי"ב סק"ח



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Day 10

Generally speaking, a sponge may not be used to wash dishes on Shabbos. There are various types of sponges advertised as "Shabbos sponges." One should consult with a Rov regarding the usage of these sponges.

שו"ע ס' שכ סי"ז



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Day 11

May one soak dishes on Shabbos in order to make washing them on Motzaei Shabbos easier? The halacha distinguishes between two types of cases:

Before the leftover food has become stuck to the dish, water may be added to prevent adhesion from occurring. If, however, the leftover food already became stuck to the dish, water may no longer be added.

To illustrate: Shortly after removing the cholent from the crockpot insert, the remaining cholent is not stuck to the walls of the insert. Thus, one may add water to the insert.* However, after some time, the remaining cholent gets stuck to the walls of the insert. Once the food is already stuck, adding water is considered preparation for cleaning the pot on Motzaei Shabbos, and is prohibited.

* Note: A crockpot insert without food is considered muktzah and may only be moved l'tzorech gufo or mekomo (i.e. for usage of the pot or because the place it occupies is needed).

שש"כ פי"ב ס"ג



Day 12

When soaking dishes is permitted on Shabbos, one may add dish soap to the water as well.

שש"כ פי"ב סק"ו



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Day 13

Generally speaking, drying dishes on Shabbos is permissible. If one is not drying so many dishes, then any towel may be used. In the event that one is drying so many dishes that the towel they are using will become very wet, a dish towel should be used.

מ"ב ס' שב סקנ"ט



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Day 14

It was previously mentioned that drying dishes is generally permitted on Shabbos. Nonetheless, if a particular utensil has a very narrow part (i.e. certain wine glasses), and drying it will certainly result in water being squeezed out from the towel, drying it is prohibited.

מ"ב ס' שב סק"ס



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Day 15

Sorting dishes or silverware on Shabbos is prohibited. This applies both to sorting in preparation for washing (whether on Shabbos or afterwards) and sorting following washing on Shabbos. However, one may randomly remove one piece of silverware at a time from a mixture, wash or dry it, and then return it to its proper place. Because one is not performing a deliberate selection, this is not considered *borer*.

שש"כ פי"ב סכ"ד



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Day 16

May one store dirty utensils on Shabbos in a dishwasher? One may not place dirty utensils in the dishwasher on Shabbos in preparation for running it on Motzaei Shabbos. However, one who typically places their dirty dishes straight into the dishwasher (as opposed to their sink), may do so on Shabbos. For them, putting dishes in the dishwasher is no different than placing them in the sink. Additionally, one who has many dirty dishes and ran out of room in their sink may place the overflow in the dishwasher. In such a scenario, they are also not "preparing" for Motzaei Shabbos by doing placing the dishes in the dishwasher.

שש"כ פי"ב סל"ז



Day 17

On Erev Shabbos, one may not set a dishwasher or laundry machine on a timer to run on Shabbos. Additionally, one should not begin a cycle before Shabbos if it will continue into Shabbos.

שש"כ פי"ב סל"ז



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Day 18

Thus far we have discussed the halachos pertaining to washing dishes on Shabbos. We will now move on to discuss halachos relevant to other areas of housekeeping.

One may not tidy up a room on Shabbos for Motzaei Shabbos. However, one who intends to still use the room over the course of Shabbos is permitted to tidy it up. In such an instance the cleaning up serves a Shabbos function (to be continued).

מ"ב ס' שכו סקכ"ו



Day 19

It was previously mentioned that tidying up a room on Shabbos is only permitted if one intends to continue using that room over Shabbos.

To illustrate: On Friday night Sarah finds that there are toys all over the den. She may clean them up if that room will still be used over Shabbos. In contrast, Leah and her family are heading out the door to spend the rest of Shabbos at her sister's house. On her way out, she notices that the children's room is a mess. She may not tidy it up before leaving because it does not serve any Shabbos purpose.

מ"ב ס' שכו סקכ"ו



Day 20

One is permitted to sweep a tiled/linoleum/wood floor on Shabbos with a broom that has soft bristles (i.e. not made from straw). One may even sweep the dust into a dustpan and dump its contents into a garbage can.

בה"ל ס' שלז ד"ה ויש מחמירין,
ארחות שבת פי"ט ס"ק שנט



Day 21

One may wipe dust off of a surface or window on Shabbos with a dry cloth. Wiping surfaces with a wet cloth is prohibited. Additionally, one may not wet a surface and then wipe it with a dry cloth.

ארחות שבת פי"ג סקי"ב



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Day 22

It is permitted to clean off dirtiness from a toilet on Shabbos, either with the assistance of a brush, plunger or toilet paper etc.

שש"כ פכ"ג סט"ז



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Day 23

One may not make a bed on Shabbos so that it is prepared for Motzaei Shabbos. However, one may make a bed on Shabbos so that the room appears more presentable and neat on Shabbos itself.

ח"ב ס' שב סקי"ט



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Day 24

Returning items to their natural place is not considered preparing for Motzaei Shabbos. Thus, one may put food back into the fridge when done with it, even if it will not get ruined if left out. Similarly, one may place dirty clothing into the hamper on Shabbos.

ארחות שבת פכ"ב ס"ק קעח



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Day 25

A garbage can is considered *muktzah* on Shabbos. Consequently, one may not move a garbage can from room to room in order to deposit garbage into it (to be continued).

ארחות שבת פי"ט ס"ק שמ



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Day 26

It was previously mentioned that a garbage can is considered *muktzah* on Shabbos. Nonetheless, if the garbage is emitting a foul odor that is bothersome, one is permitted to take out the garbage.

שו"ע ס' שח סל"ד



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Day 27

Generally speaking, folding clothing (or a tablecloth etc.) on a crease on Shabbos is prohibited. One may fold the item not on the crease on Shabbos, and then refold it properly on Motzaei Shabbos (to be continued).

שו"ע ס' שב ס"ג



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Day 28

It was previously mentioned that folding clothing on its crease is prohibited on Shabbos. Items that do not have a crease may be folded and put away in the normal manner on Shabbos (i.e. socks, t-shirts etc.).

שׁוֹ"ע ס' שׁב ס"ג



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Day 29

One may not attach or detach chair-guards on Shabbos. Chair guards that were detached from a chair are *muktzah*.

שש"כ פכ"ג סט"ז



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Day 30

It is permitted to scatter salt on one's walkway/driveway on Shabbos in order to prevent people from slipping on ice or snow.

שש"כ פכ"ג סכ"א



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Halachos of
HOUSEKEEPING ON SHABBOS



Mazel Tov
on completing a month
of Halacha Yomi!