



*Halachos of*

# PREPARING FOR SHABBOS



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

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# Day 1

There is a mitzvah of kovod Shabbos (honoring the Shabbos) and a mitzvah of oneg Shabbos (making Shabbos pleasurable). Some say that kovod and oneg are mitzvos from the Torah, while others say that they are m'Drabanan (from the sages). Regardless, one must be very careful to fulfill these mitzvos. The navi Yeshayahu (58:13-14) and the gemara (Shabbos 118a) extol the great reward for those who are meticulous in honoring the Shabbos.

מ"ב ס' רמב סק"א, מס' שבת קיח., ישעיה נ"ח י"ג-י"ד



## Day 2

Even someone who has other people available to prepare for Shabbos on their behalf (i.e. cleaning and cooking help), should make an effort to do at least something themselves for kovod Shabbos.

שו"ע ס' רנ ס"א



## Day 3

The gemara (Shabbos 119a) relates how the greatest of Amoraim would personally engage in Shabbos preparations. One should learn from them and not say that a certain task or another is beneath his or her dignity; on the contrary, one's greatest honor is to honor the Shabbos.

מס' שבת קיט., שו"ע ס' רנ ס"א



## Day 4

Ideally, preparations and purchases for Shabbos should be done on erev Shabbos, even if this is more challenging. This way it is apparent that these actions are being done in honor of Shabbos. If one does not have enough time on erev Shabbos, then they may make preparations and purchase items earlier in the week. In particular, when erev Shabbos is a short day, it is preferable not to delay preparations and purchases until erev Shabbos (to be continued).

מ"ב ס' רנ סק"ב



# Day 5

When one makes a purchase for Shabbos it is good to articulate, "This is for kovod Shabbos." A person's speech has a great effect investing kedusha (sanctity) in the food.

מ"ב ס' רנ סק"ב





# Day 6

Ezra HaSofer made a decree that laundering should be done on Thursday and not on Friday. This is so that one will have enough time on erev Shabbos to take care of all other Shabbos preparations that need to be done (to be continued).

מ"ב ס' רמב סק"ה



# Day 7

Despite the fact that nowadays laundering is not as labor intensive as in the times of Ezra HaSofer, nonetheless, ideally one should do their laundering on Thursday as per Ezra's decree.

שש"כ פמ"ב הערה י"ג



## Day 8

There is an ancient minhag that women bake challah on erev Shabbos for kovod Shabbos. The Rema writes that the minhag is to bake a dough large enough to perform the mitzvah of הפרשת חלה (separating challah. To be continued).

רמ"א ס' רמב ס"א



## Day 9

The halacha only requires challah to be separated when the size of the dough is equivalent to 43 and one fifth eggs. There is a question as to how this amount is calculated. The prevalent minhag is that on a dough made from wheat flour that is 1,200 grams (42.3 ounces), challah is separated without a bracha, and on a dough that is 1,660 grams (56.4 ounces), challah is separated with a bracha.

שש"כ פמ"ב סק"ח (עפ"י שיעורי הגרא"ח נאה זצ"ל)



# Day 10

It is a mitzvah to taste the food that is being prepared for Shabbos to ensure that it is tasty (to be continued).

מ"ב ס' רנ סק"ב



# Day 11

If the tasting is done solely to determine whether the food needs more salt or spices etc., then no bracha is recited, even if the food is swallowed. However, if one's intent is to enjoy the food as well, then a bracha must be made before tasting the food. Preferably, one should deliberately have in mind to enjoy the food as well so he/she can make a bracha without question (to be continued).

מ"ב ס' רי סקי"ג וסקי"ט



## Day 12

If the food is tasted and spit out but not swallowed, then one does not become fleishigs. Additionally one is permitted to taste and spit out the food on fast days (besides Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av) and during the nine days.

כף החיים יו"ד ס' פט עפ"ד השו"ע שם



# Day 13

It is kovod Shabbos to come into Shabbos hungry and desirous to eat the Shabbos seudah (meal). Therefore, on erev Shabbos from the ninth hour (three hours prior to sunset) and on, it is ideal to refrain from sitting down to a regular sized meal. However, one is permitted to eat and drink without sitting down to a meal until Shabbos begins.

שו"ע ס' רמט ס"ב





# Day 14

It is a mitzvah to wash one's entire body in hot water on erev Shabbos (and erev Yom Tov) in honor of Shabbos. If one will be unable to wash his/her body on erev Shabbos, then the closer to Shabbos they wash the better, i.e. Thursday is preferable to Wednesday (to be continued).

שו"ע ס' רס ס"א ומ"ב שם סק"ב



# Day 15

One who cannot wash his/her entire body on erev Shabbos should at least wash his/her face and hands in hot water on erev Shabbos.

שו"ע ס' רס ס"א



## Day 16

Great care must be taken to ensure that washing for Shabbos does not lead to transgressing the Shabbos I"ח. One must be particularly mindful of this in the winter when erev Shabbos is short. Both washing and combing of the hair must be completed before Shabbos begins. Additionally, it is forbidden to squeeze out a wet towel once Shabbos has begun.

מ"ב ס' רס סק"א



# Day 17

One should cut his/her fingernails on erev Shabbos in honor of Shabbos. There are those who say that one should not cut fingernails and toenails on the same day. Therefore, one should cut toenails on Thursday (to be continued).

שו"ע ס' רס ס"א ומ"ב שם סק"ו



# Day 18

One should not cut nails in order of their fingers; rather on the left hand the proper order is 4-2-5-3-1 (where 1 is the thumb and 5 is the smallest finger), and on the right hand the proper order is 2-4-1-3-5 (to be continued).

רמ"א ס' רס ס"א



# Day 19

Ideally one should destroy nail clippings (i.e. flush them down the toilet). If some clippings fell to the ground, it is sufficient to sweep that area so that the nails are no longer in the original place where they fell.

מ"ב ס' רס סק"ו



# Day 20

After cutting one's nails, נטילת ידים should be washed (without a bracha).

שו"ע ס' ד סי"ט



# Day 21

If one is in need of a haircut, it is a mitzvah to get it on erev Shabbos for kovod Shabbos. If one is unable to do so, the closer to Shabbos they get the haircut the better.

רמ"א ס' רס ס"א מ"ב שם סק"ה





# Day 22

Some have a minhag not to get a haircut or cut their nails on Rosh Chodesh, even when Rosh Chodesh falls out on erev Shabbos.

מ"ב ס' רס סק"ז



## Day 23

One should don their Shabbos clothing immediately after washing themselves for Shabbos. If one plans on preparing more for Shabbos and is concerned that their Shabbos clothing may get dirty, then it is preferable to wait to put on Shabbos clothing until closer to Shabbos.

רמ"א ס' רסב ס"ב, שש"כ פמ"ב הערה ק"ה



## Day 24

There is a mitzvah to wear special clothing on Shabbos to show kovod Shabbos. It is a good practice for a person not to wear anything on Shabbos that they would wear during the week.

שו"ע ס' רסב ומ"ב שם סק"ה



# Day 25

Even one who is alone for Shabbos should wear special clothing for Shabbos. The special clothing is not in honor of those who see you, rather it is in the honor of Shabbos

מ"ב ס' רסב סק"ו



# Day 26

It is a mitzvah to clean one's house and arrange everything nicely in honor of Shabbos.

שו"ע ס' רסב ס"א



## Day 27

One should prepare and set the Shabbos table and make the beds in honor of Shabbos. This should be done before the men come home from shul. The gemara (Shabbos 119b) relates that two malachim accompany a person home from shul on Shabbos night, one good malach and one bad malach. If they find the Shabbos candles lit, the table prepared, and the beds made, then the good malach gives a bracha that "it should be Hashem's will that the house should be seen this way next Shabbos as well." The bad malach must answer "Amen" to the bracha against his will. If the malachim do not find the house in such a state, then the bad malach declares that "it should be Hashem's will that the house should be this way next Shabbos as well," and the good malach must answer "Amen" against his will.

שו"ע ס' רסב ס"א, הליכות בת ישראל פט"ו סי"א, גמ' שבת קיט:



# Day 28

It is proper to cover all of the tables in one's house with a tablecloth. The tablecloth should remain on the table for the entire duration of Shabbos.

ביה"ל ס' רס ס"א, רמ"א שם ס"א



# Day 29

The more a person does to prepare for the coming of Shabbos and to honor Shabbos, הרי זה משובח , they are praiseworthy.

מ"ב ס' רסב סק"ט





# Day 30

One should be joyful when Shabbos begins,  
and feel as if he/she is going  
to greet a king or participate in a wedding.

שו"ע ס' רסב ס"ג





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*Mazel Tov*  
*on completing a month*  
*of Halacha Yomi!*