

FINDING THE LEAVEN!

Beginning this process about a month before Passover will give you the opportunity to eat up your leavened foods so that there will be little to throw away at the appointed time. We suggest moving all your leavened foods to the front of your cupboards and top of your freezer so that you can begin using them up. Also, as you clean for Passover, you may find other areas you also want to clean and this is what takes some time. For example, while cleaning the insides of your cupboards, you may decide that you want to clean and wax the *outside* of the cupboards also... and while you have the supplies out, you may decide to wax *all* your home's woodwork. Full Spring Cleaning is not necessary, but your home will be lovely and ready for the holidays. Wherever has been cleaned, do not allow leaven back in (there is a spiritual lesson in this also). And remember to empty the vacuum cleaner and garbage and set it out at the curb.

Begin by checking ALL labels looking especially for: yeast, baking powder, baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), and fermented grains. Please be aware that "kosher for Passover" items *MAY* contain sodium bicarbonate. As an example, Matzoh Ball Mix contains baking soda. Those following Rabbinic halacha remove all flour, grains, and any fermented items (i.e.: pickles, wine).

Below is a list of *suggested* places to clean where leaven may be hiding:

KITCHEN/PANTRY

- baking supplies: yeast, baking powder, baking soda, fermented grains (ie white vinegar)
- sourdough starter
- prepared foods (boxed, bagged & canned foods). Read all labels carefully.
- butter dish (crumbs)
- open jars of nut butter, jams, etc. (crumbs)
- refrigerator
- freezer (both stand-alone & ref-combo)
- oven
- drawer under oven
- under range-top burners (entire top lifts up for cleaning on many models)
- microwave
- toaster, toaster oven
- breadmaker
- waffle iron
- back of bread board
- drawer/cupboard under bread board
- bread box
- bread/bagel slicer
- cookie jar
- cookie/bread cooling racks
- back of counters
- on floor where end of counters meet the refrigerator & oven
- pantry/cupboard shelves where food is stored
- cookbooks and/or recipe box
- front of cupboards and cupboard baseboards

DINING ROOM/EATING AREA

- dining table & chairs, especially between leaves in table
- child's booster chair, baby's high chair

LIVING AREAS, BEDROOMS

- family room
- baby's walker, playpen, exersaucer, etc.
- under couch and chair cushions
- kids' rooms (entire room, including IN dresser drawers, desk, pockets)
- home office, including computer keyboards
- if you eat in your bedroom...
- if you eat in your workshop, sewing room, craft room, hobby areas...

MISCELLANEOUS

- cars, vans, trucks, RVs, work trucks
- bbq, if you warm buns in there
- heat register covers & inside
- window sills and window coverings in rooms where you eat or prepare food
- camping equipment (hint: if you do this at the end of the camping season, you won't need to worry about it now)
- your desk & personal work area at job, including computer keyboards
- pockets (especially coats, blazers)
- backpacks, reusable lunch sacks, coolers, ladies' purses, diaper bag, knitting bag, etc.
- pet food, pet snacks
- vacuum cleaner, dustbuster, etc.
- anywhere you eat or store food...