

Preparing for the First Seder Motzei Shabbat .

Bedikat Chametz on Thursday evening.

Burning Chametz Friday morning, any time but you don't say 'Kol Chamira VeChamiya' until Shabbat morning.

Your home should be completely prepared for Pesach on Friday morning and so you'll use Pesach utensils (or plastic cutlery) on Shabbat. The meals should all be prepared as for Pesach.

EXCEPT that one shouldn't eat matza. There are different customs as to when one stops eating matza by choice before Pesach. They range from the hassidic cut off date after Purim to the Gemara's 'Whoever eats matza on the Eve of Pesach is like living with your bride before you're married.'

So the challahs should be bought and kept on a separate tray and eaten over it or a disposable plastic tablecloth.

After the Morning Meals on Shabbat the remnants should be thrown out. You will make it *hefker* with the declaration '*Kol Chamira VeChamiya*' and either flush it down the loo or leave it in the garden. Don't worry about whether you are feeding birds or squirrels on Shabbat, which you can't do intentionally. This is just making something *hefker*. You could also use egg matza (*matza ashira*) for *HaMotzi* but IMHO bread is better.

The Third Meal (*seuda shlishit*) could either be made with challah/matzah ashira ten minutes after the morning meal but before the deadline of 10.36am. Or you could leave it until the afternoon and have it on fruit and cake. But don't leave it too late; you want to be very hungry for the taste of matza in the evening.

Ideally all the requirements for the *Ka'ara* (the Seder plate) will have been made before Shabbat so you'll just have to lay the table and take them out after Shabbat ends. You should have left your oven or a Shabbat plate on from Friday afternoon, so you can heat up the soup or cook your chicken while you are doing the first part of the Haggadah (unless you decide to have cold cuts and salad).

On Motza'ei Shabbat, one cannot start preparing until after Shabbat and similarly on Sunday evening one should not light the candles or start preparing for the Seder until after *Tseyt HaCochavim* (half an hour after sunset) if you want to be strict or after shul if you want to be lenient. Remember that when you light the candles you must transfer the flame from a pre-existing one, such as a memorial candle lit before Shabbat.

Eruvei Chatzerot

If you live in a block of flats and you want to carry within the communal areas or you have a neighbour you often go into over Shabbat or pass things over the fence to, you will need to have a 'shared meal' which is called an *Eruv Chatzerot*. It is the custom to do this before Pesach each year. An egg or any cooked food and a loaf or matza will do. It should be placed in one of the homes and technically should be eaten before the year is out (that's why

matza is good for this – it lasts). There is a bracha you'll find in most prayer books.

This is not to be confused with *Eruv Tavshilin*, which allows you to cook from Yom Tov to Shabbat, which does not apply this Pesach.