

Common Yom Tov Questions

Rav Avrohom Chaim Agishtein

Q CAN I BREW COFFEE IN A FRENCH PRESS ON YOM TOV?

A Cooking is permitted on Yom Tov. The only potential issue is that when one pushes down the filter to separate the coffee grinds from the water, one is doing an act of Borer. The Shulchan Aruch (Oh"c 510:2) writes that the Melocha of Borer is permitted on Yom Tov if the following three requirements are met.

1. The sorting could not have been done before Yom Tov - i.e. it is a food that tastes significantly better fresh than if prepared in advance¹.
2. It is being done to be used on that day.
3. It is not being done with a utensil that is meant for separating in large quantities.

In the case of a French press, since all the above requirements are met.

1. Coffee brewed fresh is notably better.
2. It is being done for immediate use.
3. A French press is a utensil that is meant for only making small amounts of coffee.

It would be permitted to be used on Yom Tov.

Q CAN I USE A BLACK PEPPER GRINDER, OR A GARLIC PRESS ON YOM TOV?

A The Ram'a (Oh"c 504:1) writes that spices and foods that taste better fresh, but are still usable had they been ground before Yom Tov, may only be ground or chopped on Yom Tov, with a shinui. For example, by grinding them onto a napkin, or directly onto the countertop instead of onto a plate or the food².

The Shulchan Aruch (ibid) writes, however, that a pepper mill or grinder, cannot be used because it is considered Uvdah D'chol-a weekday-like activity. The opinion of Dayan Fuerst is that this does not apply to the grinders attached directly to the pepper shakers³ since they bear no resemblance to an actual mill, and they can be used as long as one uses a shinui.

Regarding a garlic press, the Mishna Berura (504:10) writes that garlic and onions are foods that lose their taste significantly if crushed before Yom Tov and therefore can be ground in a regular fashion on Yom Tov. That being said, since nowadays many people do crush garlic in advance and freeze it, one should crush it with a Shinui such as onto a napkin, etc. to avoid any Shailos⁴.

Q IF MY URN DOES NOT HAVE "SHABBOS MODE" CAN I ADD WATER TO IT ON YOM TOV?

A The issue with adding cold water to an urn on Yom Tov is that this will usually trigger the urn's heating element and also the indicator light to turn on. If there is a five-second delay before this happens, then one is permitted since this would only constitute a Gram Havarah-an indirect kindling which is permitted on Yom Tov (Shaar Hatziyun Oh"c 514:31). If, however, the delay is less than 5 seconds, one would not be allowed to add cold water on Yom Tov. Instead, they would have to boil the water first in a pot or ask a non-Jew to refill it.

Q I FORGOT TO LIGHT A YIZKOR CANDLE BEFORE YOM TOV, CAN IT BE LIT ON YOM TOV?

A It is important to note that in general only those who have a specific Minhag to light such a candle should do so. Dayan Fuerst says that the standard Minhag is only to light a candle on the Yahrzeit and for Yom Kippur. If one does have the Minhag and forgets to light it, there is an issue of Havara Shelo Letzraich-the lighting of an unnecessary fire, because the candle is not being used in a practical way. The Dayan suggests that a solution would be to light the candle and use it to go into a dark room so as to derive some practical benefit from it and then leave it as a Yizkor light.

Q I REMEMBERED ON THE FIRST DAY OF YOM TOV THAT I FORGOT TO MAKE AN EIRUV TAVSHILIN, CAN I MAKE IT NOW?

A The Shulchan Aruch (Oh"c 527:22) writes that on all Yamim Tovim [except for Rosh Hashana] if one forgets, an Eiruv Tavshilin can still be made on the first day of Yom Tov. Since the reason we have two days of Yom Tov is that there was a doubt as to which is the correct day, one makes an Eiruv Tavshilin with the following T'nai-stipulation. If today - Thursday, is Yom Tov then I do not need an Eiruv Tavshilin to cook tomorrow Friday for Shabbos, because it is really a weekday. If today is the weekday and tomorrow is really Yom Tov then this is my Eiruv Tavshilin and proceed to say the wording of the Eiru "ba'hadien eiruv...".

One cannot, however, bake or cook new food on Yom Tov to make this Eiruv, since one can only cook food on Yom Tov to be eaten that day⁵. However, one is allowed to cook on Yom Tov when it is a Friday in order to prepare for Shabbos. **This year, Shavuot 5786, however, when Friday is the first day of Yom Tov, one who forgot to make an Eiruv Tavshilin before Yom Tov cannot do so on Yom Tov itself, since the Tnai' is not relevant.**

1 ע' שמירת שבת כהלכתא ד: 2 משנה ברורה תקד: 3 באמת יש מקום לדון בענינו ע"פ מה שנחלקו הפוסקים (ע' בה"ל תקד: א ד"ה ואין שוחקין) לענין ריחים של קפה, שיש שהתירו בריחים קטנים הנהוג אצל בעלי בתים. וראיתי שהש"ס כ' פ' ז' הע' כה' לא הכריע למעשה להחיות, אלא שכתב שלענין ירקות ובשר שאופן טחינתם בדרך כלל הוא במכונה ביתית, קול טפיע' ש' אבל יל' ע' אם התיר זה שייר בפלסלין.

4 אלא שהגר"ש פורסם שליט"א התיר מטעם אחד, שגראה לו שאלו הריחים שמחבורים לקופסת הפלפלים אינם דומים לריחים כלל וע"כ לא שייר בהם העובדא דחול של השו"ע. 5 ע"פ דין פורסם שליט"א, שקשה לידע אם המציאות הוא שבאמת נתקלל אם נעשה מאתמול, ע"כ טוב להחמיר. ושאלתי אם זה נחשב כריחים ואמר לי שלא נראה לו שנחשב כריחים כיון שעשוי לכמות מועט מאוד.

5 ערוך השולחן תקנז: לו

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FROM THE TOP 3
SHAILOS ASKED

2,478

CALLS
RECEIVED
FROM
PURIM
THROUGH
PESACH

109
years

COMBINED RABBINICAL
EXPERIENCE

14

ARTICLES
PUBLISHED



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CALLS RECEIVED IN THE PAST YEAR

CALLS RECEIVED FROM
136
DIFFERENT AREA CODES

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