

Laws of Eruv Tavshilin

ע"פ פסקי מו"ר הרב אליהו בן-חיים שליט"א

By Rabbi Shmuel Baniliv and Avraham Ben-Haim

A fundamental difference between Shabbat and Yom Tov is a concept called *ochel nefesh*: Unlike on Shabbat, it is permissible to cook on Yom Tov as long as the fire was lit before Yom Tov. However, the Torah¹ only permits us to bake, cook and prepare food on Yom Tov to eat the prepared food on that same day of Yom Tov.

One is not permitted to prepare from the first day of Yom Tov for the second day of Yom Tov or for after Yom Tov. This prohibition of *hachana* (preparing from one day of Yom Tov to the next) presents a problem when the second day of Yom Tov falls out on Shabbat or when Shabbat follows a two-day sequence of Yom Tov. To allow us to cook on Yom Tov for Shabbat our Sages instituted a concept called Eruv Tavshilin.

What is Eruv Tavshilin? It is the process of performing a symbolic starting process before Yom Tov to our cooking. This will allow us to demonstrate that any cooking done on Yom Tov is as if we are continuing the cooking process that began before Yom Tov.

This year, the first days of Pesach fall out on Thursday and Friday and are followed immediately by Shabbat. Therefore, it is important for each household to perform an Eruv Tavshilin on Wednesday afternoon to allow Shabbat preparations to take place.

What is Eruv Tavshilin?

1. According to Halacha, it is forbidden to cook on Yom Tov if you do not intend on eating that food on that day of Yom Tov. For example, if Yom Tov falls out on Monday and Tuesday, it is forbidden to cook on Monday for use on the second day of Yom Tov- Tuesday, and it is forbidden to cook on Tuesday for use after Yom Tov on Wednesday. To solve the situation when Friday is Yom Tov, our Sages enacted Eruv Tavshilin to allow us to prepare food on Friday for use on Shabbat.²
2. Eruv Tavshilin must be performed in each household on Wednesday, April 8th before Yom Tov starts. One should not have someone else perform the Eruv on their behalf.³
3. To perform Eruv Tavshilin, we make a *beracha* and set aside some food for Shabbat before Yom Tov starts. By doing this, we symbolically begin our Shabbat preparations before Yom Tov begins. That becomes combined with the cooking we do on Yom Tov itself (the word "Eruv" means "mixing").⁴
4. Eruv Tavshilin only allows for cooking from Friday for Shabbat. It does not permit cooking from Thursday for Friday or from Thursday for Shabbat.⁵ (In Halacha, all days start from the night before, so Thursday night is considered Friday.)
5. Even with an Eruv in place, one should not cook food immediately before Shabbat but should finish Shabbat preparations at least half an hour before sunset on Friday.⁶

¹ נחלקו הראשונים אם איסור זה מדאורייתא או מדרבנן. דעת הרמב"ם (פ"ו מהל' שביתת יו"ט הלכה א) שאיסור זה מדברי סופרים אבל התוספות בביצה (דף ב ע"ב ד"ה והיה ביום השלישי) כתבו שהוא מדורייתא. ועיין בבאור הלכה ריש סימן תקכז (ד"ה ועל ידי ערוב) שהאריך בזה והביא דעת עוד ראשונים במחלוקת זה

² שו"ע סימן תקכז סעיף א

³ שו"ע שם סעיף ז

⁴ השגת הראב"ד על הרמב"ם בפ"ו מהל' שביתת יו"ט הלכה ב

⁵ שו"ע שם סעיף יג

⁶ בן איש חי שנה ראשונה פרשת צו הל' ערוב סעיף ח וכן פסק המשנה ברורה (סי' תקכז ס"ק ג) בשם אחרונים

How is Eruv Tavshilin performed?

A hard-boiled egg and two pieces of matza are placed together in a plate or dish. The head of the household (or whoever is performing the Eruv Tavshilin) lifts the items and recites the following *beracha*:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל מִצְוַת עֶרֶב

The following statement is then said in English or any other language:

Through this it shall be permitted for us to cook, bake, warm up food, light candles and perform any other preparations on Yom Tov for Shabbat.⁷

One can also say it in the original Aramaic, but must understand what he or she is saying:⁸

בְּדִין עֶרְבָא יְהֵא שְׂרָא לְנָא לְאַפּוּי, וּלְבִשּׁוּלִי, וּלְאַטְמוּנִי, וּלְאַדְלוּקִי שְׂרָגָא, וּלְמַעְבָּד כּל צְרָכְנָא מִיּוֹמָא טְבָא לְשַׁבְּתָא

What foods may be used for the Eruv Tavshilin?

1. Ideally, one should use two foods: something that was cooked and something that was baked. However, if one only used a cooked food (and not a baked item) it is sufficient.⁹
2. The cooked food should be a food that is normally eaten with bread. Meat, fish and eggs are ideal foods for Eruv Tavshilin.¹⁰ **A single hard-boiled egg and two pieces of matza** cover the criteria nicely and are customarily used, although other foods may be used as well.¹¹
3. The size of the cooked food should be at least a **kezayit** (volume of 28 ml). The size of the baked food should be at least a **kabetza** (volume of 56 ml).¹² A single hard-boiled egg and two pieces of matza are of sufficient size.
4. The Eruv is only in effect as long as the Eruv food is still around. If it is eaten, the Eruv gets canceled and one can no longer prepare for Shabbat on Yom Tov.¹³ The custom is to eat it on Shabbat at one of the meals and to make Hamotzi on the matza,¹⁴ but one can eat it earlier as long as it is no longer needed to keep the Eruv in effect.

If I forgot to do Eruv Tavshilin, can I still cook for Shabbat?

1. In every city, the Rav of the city should perform an Eruv as a back-up for anyone who may have forgotten. If one forgets to do their own Eruv Tavshilin, they can rely on the Eruv of the Rav. However, one should do their own Eruv in their home. The Eruv of the Rav is ideally only for those who forgot.¹⁵ Harav Eliyahu Ben-Haim Shlit"א will perform a back-up Eruv for any residents of Great Neck who did not do their own Eruv for this Pesach.¹⁶

⁷ שו"ע שם סעיף יא-יב

⁸ מור"ם שם סעיף יב ומשנ"ב ס"ק מ

⁹ שו"ע שם סעיף ב

¹⁰ שו"ע שם סעיף ד

¹¹ בן איש חי שנה ראשונה פרשת צו הל' ערוב סעיף א

¹² שו"ע שם סעיף ג

¹³ שו"ע שם סעיף טו

¹⁴ בן איש חי שם סעיף ב וכתוב בשו"ע הרב סי' תקכז סעיף כה שיש לבצוע על הפת באחד מהסעודות של שבת ויש נוהגים לשמרו עד סעודת שלישית

¹⁵ שו"ע שם סעיף ז

¹⁶ דעת הרבה ראשונים מובאים בבית יוסף בסי' תקכז (וביניהם הרשב"א בתשובה) שאם גדול העיר התכוון בפירושו אף על הפושעים שיוצאים בערובו