

IS IT "REAL" CHOMETZ?

Although להלכה, any *chometz* may be sold before *Pesach*, there are pious individuals who do not sell "real" *chometz*, but rather give it away, burn it, or eat it before *Pesach*. How does one define "real" *chometz*? A food for which there is an *issur* of *בלי יראה ובל ימצא דאורייתא* (there is a *Torah* prohibition of ownership on *Pesach*) is "real" *chometz*. This includes all items that are *חמץ גמור*, *real chometz* (bread, cake, pretzels, pasta, etc.).

However, *חמץ גמור* where the *חייב ביעור* (obligation to burn) is only *מדרבנן* (rabbinic), or at least according to some opinions only *מדרבנן*, is not *חמץ גמור*. In addition, *ספק חמץ* medications and non-edible items, as well as products processed on *chometz* equipment, are not considered to be *חמץ גמור*. These products are sold before *Pesach* even by individuals who are stringent not to sell *חמץ גמור*. Many individuals who do not sell *חמץ גמור* will sell alcoholic beverages before *Pesach*. Each family should follow their custom.

The following chart offers guidelines as to which products are considered "real" *chometz*. *חמץ גמור* means it is "real" *chometz*. Pious individuals customarily do not sell these products before *Pesach*. Rather, they either consume it, burn it, or give it away as a gift to a gentile before *Pesach*. *Not חמץ גמור* indicates the product is not "real" *chometz*. Even pious individuals will generally sell such products to a gentile before *Pesach*. (Where indicated, some products may even remain in one's possession during *Pesach*, and a sale is not required.)

PRODUCT	STATUS
Barley (if pearled, raw and packaged)	חמץ גמור Not
Beer	חמץ גמור
Bread	חמץ גמור
Cake and Cookies	חמץ גמור
Cake mixes (dry)	חמץ גמור Not
Cereal with primary ingredient of wheat, oats or barley	חמץ גמור
<i>Chometz</i> content is more than a <i>k'zayis</i> . The <i>chometz</i> can be eaten in a time span of <i>k'dai achilas pras</i> ² (e.g., box of Froot Loops cereal)	חמץ גמור
<i>Chometz</i> content is more than a <i>k'zayis</i> . The <i>chometz</i> can not be eaten <i>b'kdai achilas pras</i> ² (e.g., box of Cap 'N' Crunch cereal)	חמץ גמור Not
<i>Chometz</i> content in entire package is less than a <i>k'zayis</i> but is greater than 1/60 of the product (e.g., Corn Flakes cereal)	חמץ גמור Not
<i>Chometz</i> content is less than 1/60 of the product	חמץ גמור Not ⁴
<i>Chometz Nokshe</i> (e.g., <i>chometz</i> glue)	חמץ גמור Not
<i>Chometz</i> products non-edible even for canine consumption (<i>nifsal mayachilas kelev</i>)	חמץ גמור Not ³
Condiments containing vinegar (e.g., ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, pickles)	חמץ גמור Not
Cooked on <i>chometz</i> equipment (not during <i>Pesach</i>) but contains no <i>chometz</i> in the product	חמץ גמור Not ⁵
Corn Flakes (even if contains malt flavor)	חמץ גמור Not
Cosmetics	חמץ גמור Not ⁴
Cream of Wheat	חמץ גמור
Couscous	חמץ גמור
Detergents	חמץ גמור Not ⁴

PRODUCT	STATUS
Extracts	Not חמץ גמור
Farfel mix	חמץ גמור
Flour (including whole wheat flour or if contains malted barley)	Not חמץ גמור ⁶
Food coloring	Not חמץ גמור
Gefilte Fish (even if contains <i>matzo</i> meal & is not KFP as long as label does not state <i>chometz</i> content)	Not חמץ גמור
Ketchup	Not חמץ גמור
<i>Kitniyos</i>	Not חמץ גמור ³
Licorice	חמץ גמור
Malt extract in product (e.g., Rice Krispies)	Not חמץ גמור
Maltodextrin/ Maltose (in product)	Not חמץ גמור
<i>Matzah</i> and <i>Matzah</i> Meal - not certified for <i>Pesach</i> (label does not state <i>chometz</i>)	Not חמץ גמור
Mayonnaise	Not חמץ גמור
Medicine containing <i>chometz</i>	Not חמץ גמור
Modified food starch (from unknown sources)	Not חמץ גמור
Mustard	Not חמץ גמור
Oatmeal (Instant, Regular, Baby)	חמץ גמור
Pasta	חמץ גמור
Pickles	Not חמץ גמור
Pretzels	חמץ גמור
Rice Krispies (even if contains malt flavor)	Not חמץ גמור
Rolled oats	חמץ גמור
Salad Dressing	Not חמץ גמור
Vanillin and Ethyl Vanillin	Not חמץ גמור
Vinegar (from unknown sources)	Not חמץ גמור
Vitamin tablets containing <i>chometz</i>	Not חמץ גמור
Wheat germ	חמץ גמור
Wheat gluten/wheat protein (unknown amount in product)	custom ¹
Whiskey	Follow family
Yeast (Baker's), yeast extract	Not חמץ ³