

GUIDE TO SELLING **CHOMETZ GAMUR/REAL CHOMETZ** BEFORE PESACH

Rabbi Dovid Heber, STAR-K Kashrus Administrator

Although *l'Halacha*, 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 *chometz gamur*, “real” *chometz*? A food for which there is an *issur* of *bal yeira'eh u'bal yematzeh d'Oraysa* (there is a *Torah* prohibition of ownership on Pesach) is “real” *chometz*. This includes all items that are *chometz gamur*, real *chometz* (bread, cake, pretzels, pasta, etc.). It should be noted that people who do not sell real *chometz* may purchase real *chometz* after Pesach from a Jewish owned store that sold their *chometz*.

Ta'aroves chometz, food consisting of *chometz* ingredients, where the *chiyuv biur* (obligation to burn) is only *m'drabanan* (rabbinic), or at least according to some opinions only *m'drabanan*, is not *chometz gamur*. In addition, *safek chometz* medications (i.e., one is unable to determine whether it is *chometz*) and non-edible items, as well as products processed on *chometz* equipment, are not considered to be *chometz gamur*. These products are sold before Pesach even by individuals who are stringent not to sell *chometz gamur*. Many individuals who do not sell *chometz gamur* 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*. “*Chometz gamur*” 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 non-Jew before Pesach. “Not *chometz gamur*” indicates the product is not “real” *chometz*. Even pious individuals will generally sell such products to a non-Jew before Pesach. (Where indicated, some products may even remain in one’s possession during Pesach, and a sale is not required.)

CHOMETZ GAMUR/REAL CHOMETZ CHART

PRODUCT	STATUS
Barley (if pearled, raw and packaged)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Beer	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Bread	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Cake and Cookies	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Cake mixes (dry)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Cereal with primary ingredient of wheat, oats or barley	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>

CHOMETZ GAMUR/REAL CHOMETZ CHART

PRODUCT	STATUS
<i>Chometz</i> content is more than a <i>kezayis</i> . The <i>chometz</i> can be eaten in a time span of <i>kedei achilas pras</i> ^{2a} (e.g., box of Froot Loops cereal).	<i>Chometz Gamur</i> ^{2b}
<i>Chometz</i> content is more than a <i>kezayis</i> . The <i>chometz</i> can not be eaten <i>b'kedei achilas pras</i> ^{2a} (e.g., box of Cap 'N Crunch cereal).	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ^{2b}
<i>Chometz</i> content in entire package is less than a <i>kezayis</i> but is greater than 1/60 of the product (e.g., Corn Flakes cereal).	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
<i>Chometz</i> content is less than 1/60 of the product	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ⁴
<i>Chometz Nokshe</i> (e.g., <i>chometz</i> glue)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
<i>Chometz</i> products non-edible even for canine consumption (<i>nifsal mei'achilas kelev</i>)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ³
Condiments containing vinegar (e.g., ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, pickles)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Cooked on <i>chometz</i> equipment (not during Pesach) but contains no <i>chometz</i> in the product	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ⁵
Corn Flakes (even if contains malt flavor)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Cosmetics	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ⁴
Cream of Wheat	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Couscous	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Detergents	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ⁴
Extracts	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Farfel	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Flour (including whole wheat flour or if it contains malted barley)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ⁶
Food coloring	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Gefilte Fish (even if contains matzah meal & is not KFP as long as label does not state <i>chometz</i> content)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Ketchup	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
<i>Kitniyos</i>	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ³
Licorice	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Product containing malt extract (e.g., Rice Krispies)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Maltodextrin/ Maltose (in product and from unknown source)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Matzah and Matzah Meal - not certified for Pesach (label does not state <i>chometz</i>)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Mayonnaise	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>

PRODUCT	STATUS
Medicine containing <i>chometz</i>	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Modified food starch (from unknown source)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Mustard	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Oatmeal (Instant, Regular, Baby cereal)	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Pasta	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Pickles	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Pretzels	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Rice Krispies (even if contains malt flavor)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Rolled oats	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Salad Dressing	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Vanillin/Ethyl Vanillin	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Vinegar (from unknown source)	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Vitamin tablets containing <i>chometz</i>	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Wheat germ	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Wheat gluten/Wheat protein (unknown amount in product)	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>
Whiskey ⁷	Follow family custom ¹
Yeast (Baker's)/Yeast extract	Not <i>Chometz Gamur</i> ³
Yeast (Brewer's)	<i>Chometz Gamur</i>

1. Some individuals sell this *chometz*, others do not. One should follow his family custom.

2a. *Kedei achilas pras* is the amount of time it takes to eat the volume of buttered bread equaling 3-4 eggs (approximately 2-4 minutes). For example, if one eats a bowl of Froot Loops cereal, he will eat a *kezayis* of *chometz* within 2-4 minutes. However, if one eats Cap 'N Crunch cereal he will not eat a *kezayis* of *chometz* fast enough since the amount of *chometz* in Cap 'N Crunch cereal is relatively minimal.

2b. See *Magid Mishnah* on *Rambam Hilchos Chometz U'Matzah* 4:8.

3. These products are not *chometz*. One may even retain possession on Pesach. Sale is not necessary (*mutar behana'a b'Pesach*). The product may not be eaten on Pesach.

4. These products are not *chometz*. One may even retain possession on Pesach. Sale is not necessary (*mutar behana'a b'Pesach*).

5. One may retain possession of these products on Pesach. Sale is not necessary. They may not be eaten on Pesach.

6. This applies to flour that is not an ingredient in a product (e.g., flour sold in bags). However, as an ingredient in a product it is usually *chometz gamur*.

7. This includes bourbon, rye, liquor, gin, scotch & whiskey (unless they are certified for Pesach or are known to be from non-*chometz* sources).