

COMMON PESACH FOODS AND THEIR BRACHOS

Rabbi Dovid Heber, STAR-K Kashrus Administrator

FOOD	BRACHA RISHONA	BRACHA ACHARONA
Egg Matzah ⁵	Mezonos ⁵	Al Hamichya ⁵
Gefilte Fish (with or without matzah meal)	Shehakol	Borei Nefashos
Grape Juice	Hagafen	Al Hagefen See footnotes #1 and #6
Grape Juice mixed with water or other beverages	See Footnote #2	See Footnote #2
Kneidlach (matzah balls)	Mezonos	Al Hamichya
Macaroons (from shredded coconut - still <i>nikkar</i> ³)	He'eitz	Borei Nefashos
Macaroons (from ground coconut or paste)	Shehakol	Borei Nefashos
Matzah (wheat, whole wheat, oat, spelt)	Hamotzi	Birchas Hamazon
Matzah Brei	See Footnote #4	See Footnote #4
Matzah Cereal (from matzah meal)	Mezonos	Al Hamichya
Matzah Kugel/ Stuffing	Mezonos	Al Hamichya
Matzah Lasagna ⁷	Hamotzi	Birchas Hamazon
Matzah Meal Cake	Mezonos ¹⁰	Al Hamichya
Matzah Meal Rolls ⁸	Mezonos	Al Hamichya
Matzah Pizza ⁷	Hamotzi	Birchas Hamazon
Nut Flour Cake (e.g., made from almond flour etc.)	Shehakol ¹¹	Borei Nefashos
Potato Kugel (made from shredded potatoes - still <i>nikkar</i> ³)	Ho'adama	Borei Nefashos
Potato Kugel (from potatoes ground into a pudding-like substance so potatoes are no longer <i>nikkar</i> ³)	Shehakol	Borei Nefashos
Potato Starch Cake	Shehakol ¹¹	Borei Nefashos
Quinoa (cooked) ⁹	Ho'adama	Borei Nefashos
Quinoa Flour Products (e.g., quinoa cake and cookies, quinoa pancakes)	Shehakol	Borei Nefashos
Teiglach (matzah meal cooked in sweet syrup)	Mezonos	Al Hamichya
Wine	Hagafen	Al Hagefen See footnotes #1 and #6

Footnotes to Common Pesach Foods and Their Brachos Chart

1. A *bracha acharona* is recited when drinking at least a *revi'is* (3.8 fl. oz.) within a 30 second span. If one drank more than 1.0 fl. oz. (*kezayis* according to some opinions) and less than 3.8 fl. oz. (and cannot drink more) even within a 30 second span, a *bracha acharona* is not recited. However, if one also requires an *Al Hamichya* or *Al Ha'eitz* at this time, one can also include *Al Hagefen*. See *Mishnah Berurah* [M.B.] 208:82.
2. This depends on the percentage of grape juice. If there is a majority (*rov*) of grape juice (51%), recite *Hagafen/Al Hagefen*. However, if the mixture is *rov* water (or *rov* of another beverage, such as apple juice) the *bracha* depends on various factors. See *Rama* 202:1, M.B. & *Biur Halacha*. Consult a *rav*.
3. *Nikkar* means it is still noticeable. Typically, shredded coconut or grated potatoes are considered "*nikkar*" and the original *bracha* is retained. However, if finely ground or processed the original form is no longer "*nikkar*" and the *bracha* is changed to *Shehakol*. See M.B. 208:37-38.
4. Matzah brei is typically made from matzah that was broken into pieces less than a *kezayis*. (The fact that they are reformed into a *kezayis* is irrelevant). The *halacha* is as follows: If the pieces of matzah were boiled in water (or submerged into a *kli rishon*), or the matzah is no longer *nikkar* (e.g., fried in oil with eggs), one recites *Mezonos/Al Hamichya*. If, however, the matzah meal was not boiled but only pan fried with no oil or butter, and the matzah is still *nikkar*, one recites *Hamotzi/Birchas Hamazon*. See *Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim* [S.A. O.C.] 168:10 & M.B.
5. Egg matzah and *matzah ashira* may not be eaten on Pesach according to Ashkenazic practice, except by the sick or elderly who cannot eat regular matzah and require egg matzah. Consult your *rav*. Please note: Even the sick and elderly cannot fulfill the obligation to eat matzah at the Seder with these types of *matzos*. As noted in the chart, in general the *bracha rishona* is *Mezonos* and the *bracha acharona* is *Al Hamichya*. However, if one is *kovea seuda* on it (e.g., as part of a full meal) recite *Hamotzi* and *Birchas Hamazon*. See *Rama* O.C. 562:4.
6. The *bracha acharona* on wine and grape juice produced in Israel ends with the words "*v'al pri gafna*" (instead of "*v'al pri hagafen*"). See *Birkei Yosef* O.C. 208:58.
7. We assume the pieces of matzah are still *nikkar* as matzah, or at least one piece of matzah, remained a *kezayis*. See S.A. O.C. 168:10 & M.B.
8. We assume that the matzah rolls are made from matzah meal that was put into a *kli rishon* of water, or the "rolls" do not have the texture of bread (i.e., no *tzuras hapas*). See S.A. O.C. 168:10 & M.B.
9. Quinoa may need to be checked for possible insect infestation. See www.star-k.org.
10. If matzah meal cake is eaten for dessert at the end of a meal that began with matzah/*Hamotzi*, no *bracha* is recited on the cake.
11. If potato starch cake (or any other *Shehakol* "cake" e.g., made from almond flour) is eaten for dessert at the end of a meal that began with matzah/*Hamotzi*, a *Shehakol* is recited.