

Eruv Tavshilin

By: Rabbi Yochanan Schnall

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Application

If a Yom Tov begins on a Thursday or Friday, every household must make an **Eruv Tavshilin**.

Definition

When Yom Tov falls on Friday, it is permitted from the Torah to cook on that day for Shabbos. Due to this, one could be tempted to push off Shabbos food preparations to be done exclusively on the Friday-Yom Tov. Since this would be a degradation of Yom Tov the rabbis required that some Shabbos preparations be done prior to Yom Tov as well.

In a nutshell, Eruv Tavshilin is a symbolic preparation for Shabbos which is done before Yom Tov begins. It serves as a reminder to begin preparing for Shabbos before Yom Tov. Not having one in place could limit any Shabbos preparations during the Yom Tov.¹

Note: Even with an Eruv Tavshilin, it is never permitted to do exclusive Shabbos preparations on a Thursday/Yom Tov.²

Procedure

To make an Eruv Tavshilin, two portions of foods are set aside (the accepted types are listed below), and a blessing and a declaration are recited. The foods are then put in a secure place to be eaten on Shabbos.

Some prefer using the matzah/bread as one of the two loaves/matzahs that Hamotzi is recited over during Shalosh Seudos.

Foods

- One of *each* of the following two food groups are used³:
 - ✓ Matzah or bread
This *should* be a whole item⁴ and larger than two fluid ounces⁵ (e.g. a roll or matzah).
 - ✓ A cooked food
This *must* be a type of food that is normally eaten with bread; such as various proteins, fruits or vegetables.⁶
- The minimum volume of each of the food items is one fluid ounce⁷.
- Although it is preferable for the foods to have been cooked or baked specifically for Shabbos, this is not necessary⁸.

Blessing and Declaration

- The blessing and declaration can be found in a siddur.
- The blessing is recited in Hebrew. The declaration is in Aramaic and one who does not understand Aramaic may recite it in a familiar language.⁹ (Look for the translation in a translated siddur or machzor.)

No Plans to Prepare

- A household that does not need to cook or bake for Shabbos still makes an Eruv Tavshilin in order to light Shabbos candles on Friday/ Yom Tov afternoon. In this circumstance, the blessing is omitted¹⁰.

Mishaps

- If one forgot to make an Eruv Tavshilin or if the designated food was lost or eaten before Shabbos, a rabbi must be consulted¹¹.

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¹ See Shulchan Aruch 527

² Shulchan Aruch 527:13

³ Shulchan Aruch 527:2

⁴ Mishna Berura 527:8

⁵ Rema 527:3

⁶ Shulchan Aruch 527:4

⁷ Shulchan Aruch 527:3

⁸ Mishna Berura 527:20, see Biur Halacha ad. loc "Adashim"

⁹ Rema 527:12

¹⁰ See The Laws of Yom Tov Chapter 35 note 48

¹¹ See Shulchan Aruch and Mishna Berura 527