

GREATER PHOENIX
VAAD HAKASHRUTH K_N

The Central Agency For The Advancement and Compliance of Dietary Laws

ועד הכשרות

Practical Guidelines: Buying Chametz After Pesach 5781 in Phoenix, AZ

According to Halacha, chametz can sometimes be forbidden even after the conclusion of Pesach. If it was owned by a Jew during Pesach because he failed to destroy or sell it, that chametz may not be eaten forever. [For background and further details, see below.] When most food products were produced and sold locally, this law was easy to apply. The complexity and global reach of the contemporary food supply chain, however, often makes it difficult to determine what chametz products have been affected. Nevertheless, based on research provided by the Association of Kashrus Organizations and additional investigation into some of our local stores, we have determined that in Phoenix in 5781, Chametz can be purchased in most stores without reservation. Regarding particular stores, please refer to the following guidelines:

- **Vaad Establishments:** All Jewish-owned Vaad establishments sold their Chametz through the Vaad for Pesach 5781 and *chametz products can be purchased without reservation:*
 - **101 Kosher**
 - **Imperial Kosher Market**
 - **La Bella Pizzeria**
 - **milk+honey espresso bar & eatery**
 - **613 Grill**
- The following stores have no concern of Jewish ownership therefore chametz products *can be purchased without reservation:* **Costco, Walmart, CVS, Sam's Club, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Whole Foods, Sprouts Farmers Market, 99 Cents Store, Bashas'**
- Although the following stores (or their distributors) have an element of Jewish ownership, since they have sold their chametz for Pesach 5781, *chametz products can be purchased without reservation:* **Safeway, Fry's Food Stores.**

If you have any questions, please ask your rabbi or contact us at info@kosherphoenix.org.

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Background: The Laws of Chametz After Pesach

The mishna (Pesachim 28a) teaches:

One may derive benefit from chametz which belonged to a gentile during Pesach; but chametz of a Jew [which remained in his possession over Pesach] is forbidden, for the Torah says, “No leavening may be in your possession” (Shemot 13:7).

The gemara cites a debate between R. Yehuda and R. Shimon regarding the origin of this law. R. Yehuda believes that Biblically, Halachic Background one may not consume chametz owned by a Jew during Pesach. R. Shimon disagrees, and as Rava (Pesachim 29a) explains, the Rabbis instituted a *kenas* (penalty) since this person violated the prohibition of owning Chametz during Pesach. The halacha is in accordance with R. Shimon, that the prohibition is only Rabbinic. Not only does this chametz become forbidden to eat even after Pesach has concluded, but one may also not derive any benefit whatsoever from it, for example, by selling it. Therefore, the chametz of a non-Jew is permitted after Pesach, even for eating; but that of a Jew, which remained in his possession over Pesach, is forbidden to both eat and have any benefit from.

Regarding a supermarket or any store that is owned by Jews that does not sell its chametz, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (Igros Moshe, Supermarkets Orach Chaim 4:96) writes that one may purchase chametz from this supermarket after Pesach at the point at which one may assume that most of the current inventory was bought by the supermarket after Pesach.

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According to the OU, in general one can assume that by Lag B'omer (approximately four weeks after Pesach) most of the inventory has changed over, even if the supermarket is supplied by a Jewish-owned distributor. If the supermarket does sell its chametz, one may of course purchase chametz immediately after it is purchased back. If the supermarket sells its chametz [or sells the entire business to a Non-Jew for the duration of Pesach] but continues selling chametz during Pesach, although common practice follows the opinion that nevertheless considers the sale valid, some are strict not to purchase any chametz until its inventory turns over, as above.

Although this halacha is most relevant immediately after Pesach, it can sometimes have more long-term ramifications. There are Alcoholic Beverages some large liquor companies in the United States that are owned partially or entirely by Jews. Grain based alcoholic beverages are considered chametz and often age for months or years during production. If the owners do not arrange before Pesach to sell the chametz that they own, the product would become prohibited. Therefore, unlike baked goods and other products with a shorter production time and shelf life, liquor products produced by Jewish owned companies that do not sell their chametz cannot be assumed to be free of this concern even if purchased long after the end of Pesach. For a list of brands that are subject to this concern, [click here](#).