

Guidelines for Making an Eiruv Tavshilin

Can I cook on *Yom Tov*?

Yes! A fundamental difference between *Yom Tov* observance and *Shabbat* observance is **the allowance of activities relating to *ochel nefesh*, food preparation**, on *Yom Tov*. The Torah permits one to cook, bake, and prepare food on *Yom Tov* proper in order to eat the prepared food on that very day of *Yom Tov*.

Can I cook food for the second day of *Yom Tov* on the first day?

No! One is not permitted to prepare on one day of *Yom Tov* for the second day of *Yom Tov* or for after *Yom Tov*. This Rabbinic prohibition of *hachana* (preparing on one day of *Yom Tov* for another day) presents a problem when *Shabbat* follows a two day sequence of *Yomim Tovim*, as is the case this year on *Rosh HaShanah*, *Sukkot*, and *Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah*.

What should I do if the second day of *Yom Tov* is Erev *Shabbat*? I want to be able to cook fresh food for *Shabbat*!

To deal with this issue and to enable us to enjoy cooked food on *Shabbat* even when it immediately follows a *Yom Tov*, our Rabbis instituted a procedure known as *eiruv tavshilin*. In creating an *Eiruv Tavshilin*, one is effectively starting one's *Shabbat* preparation prior to *Yom Tov*, and one may then continue this preparation on Friday, even though it is *Yom Tov*.

How do I make an *Eiruv Tavshilin*?

Before *Yom Tov* begins (in the case of this year's holidays, on Wednesday), one person from the apartment/dormitory should set aside a baked item, such as bread or *matzoh*, **and** a cooked item, such as meat, fish, or an egg (a hardboiled egg is usually best as it can be left out as is).

What should I say when I make the *Eiruv Tavshilin*?

After setting aside the *matzoh* and egg, one should then pick up the items and recite the **blessing and the proclamation printed on the back of this paper**. The proclamation is traditionally recited in Aramaic, but should also be recited in English so that it will be understood.

What am I saying in the proclamation?

This proclamation states that these cooked and baked items should permit us to continue baking, cooking, lighting a flame from an existing fire and doing all the necessary preparations on *Yom Tov* pertinent to *Shabbat*. It is now viewed as though the meal preparations for *Shabbat* have already begun before *Yom Tov*. The *Shabbat* meal preparations may thus continue on Friday, which is both *Yom Tov* and *Erev Shabbat*.

What do I do with the food of the *Eiruv Tavshilin*?

The foods set aside for the *eiruv* should **be kept intact until *Shabbat* when they may be eaten**.

Do I need to make my own *Eiruv Tavshilin*, or can I do it with my roommate?

One *Eiruv Tavshilin* covers all members and guests of that particular apartment/dorm room.

Please feel free to speak to me with any questions.

Text for Eiruv Tavshilin

ברוך אתה ה' אלוקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על מצות עירוב

בהדין ערובא יהא לנא לאפויי ולבשולי ולאטמוני ולאדלוקי שרגא ולתקנא ולמעבד כל צרכנא מיומא
טבא שבתא

With this *eiruv* it should be permitted for us to bake, cook, insulate food, light a candle, prepare, and do anything needed on *Yom Tov* for the sake of *Shabbat*.