

## ערוב תבשילין

ERUV TAVSHILIN -- COOKING ON YOM TOV FOR SHABBAT

One of the chief differences between Shabbat and Yom Tov is the permissibility of cooking on the latter. As the Torah teaches: “No work shall be done on them (i.e., festival days); only what every person is to eat, that alone may be prepared for you” (*Exodus* 12:16-17). Jewish Law, however, limits cooking on Yom Tov to food preparation necessary for that festival day only.

When a festival immediately precedes Shabbat, special arrangements are made to allow cooking for the Sabbath on the holiday. According to the Mishnah, it is permissible to cook food on Yom Tov for Shabbat *so long as such preparation begins before the start of the festival* (*Beitzah* 2:1). Because this cooking is considered the continuation of prior preparation rather than the start of new activity, it falls outside the prohibition that confines cooking on Yom Tov to that day alone. The process by which we create a dispensation to cook on a festival for Shabbat is called *Eruv Tavshilin*.

Given this year’s configuration of the calendar, we have an opportunity to perform the *mitzvah* of making an *Eruv Tavshilin* because the last day of Passover falls on Shabbat (April 23<sup>rd</sup>), which means we go from the Yom Tov of the 7<sup>th</sup> day right into the Shabbat. On Thursday afternoon, April 21<sup>st</sup>, prior to the start of the Yom Tov, we cook and set aside a dish that will be eaten on Shabbat. We then recite the following blessing:

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל מִצְוֹת עֶרֶב.**

*Barukh Atah A--donai Elo--heynu Melekh Ha-Olam Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu Al Mitzvat Eruv.*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe who has sanctified us through God’s commandments, commanding us to observe the *mitzvah* of *Eruv*.

**After the blessing, recite the following declaration:** *By means of this eruv we are permitted to bake, cook, warm, kindle lights, and make all the necessary preparations during the Festival for Shabbat, we and all who live in this community.*