

Q:

I was hoping you could answer a few practicing questions about Pesach for me. Having grown up Orthodox, I have been used to some quite strict Pesach rules and I wanted to know what Reform Judaism advises for Pesach.

A:

Firstly, in terms of preparing your house and kitchen, what does Reform suggest: do you change all of your plates and cooking utensils etc.?

The general principle is a mix of family tradition and informed choice. So, if you are happy with what you have always done before, then carry on. But some families will not have an extra Pesach set but simply give the

existing crockery a clean in the dishwasher (even though it's clean) to make it special for Pesach. **Are you supposed to have all your food strictly kosher-for-Pesach, or is excluding chametz products enough, and is it okay to buy normal cheese, tinned food, etc.?**

Yes, if something naturally does not have any chametz in, then there is no need

Unfortunately, I received your question too late for the April edition of *Hadashot*, but although it is now far past Pesach, this might be useful for this time next year, so cut it out and put it by your *Haggadot*! To answer point by point:

ASK THE RABBI

If you wish to ask a question, please send it to Rabbi Romain at rabromain@aol.com



for a certificate (and extra expense) to prove that. **Also, do you carry out the tradition of selling your chametz before the start of Pesach?**

No, that is regarded as legal fiction that is not worthy of being done. Instead, any chametz left over can either be given away to a charity shop (e.g., an unopened packet of biscuits or breakfast cereal) or put

away in a different place than usual or, if possible, stored outside the house (e.g., a bottle of whisky put in a box in the shed or garage).

Is there a time on Erev Pesach (Monday 22 April) from when you are supposed to stop eating chametz?

If possible, from mid-day, so as to give plenty of time to ensure the house is chametz-free.

Do you have one or two seders in Reform Judaism?

There is only a need for one seder, but some families still have two for the sake of family diplomacy (one night at her family, the other night at his).

And does Pesach last 7 or 8 days?

We have gone back to the biblical original of seven days (Exodus 12:15-19).