

Laws of the Nine Days and Tisha B'Av On Motzei Shabbat

OSTT-OLNEY 2022

Jews have designated these days to mourn and reflect on the destruction of our Temple and the resultant suffering and devastation which have befallen us. As the 9th of Av approaches, we reduce our involvement in pleasurable activities in order to stay focused. Below, some relevant halachot are outlined. For any questions or clarification, contact Rabbi Ben-Horin abh@osttolney.org.

Meat & Wine

1. It is prohibited to eat meat and poultry or drink wine and grape juice during the nine days. Even foods cooked together with meat are prohibited (e.g. a potato from the leftover cholent). Parve food cooked in a meat pot is permitted.
2. This prohibition extends till mid-day of the 10th of Av
3. Other types of alcohol like beer or scotch are not included in the prohibition.
4. On Shabbat, meat and wine are permitted.
5. One may make havdala on wine or grape juice and drink it.
6. At a seudas mitzvah like a bris, pidyon haben, or siyum masechet, meat and wine are permitted.

Home & Garden Improvements

1. One should not renovate his/her home for mere aesthetics or pleasure. This includes painting and general home decorating.
2. If one contracted a nonjewish company to do renovations at an earlier date and the company prefers to work during the nine days for their own convenience, it is technically permissible.
3. One who renovates homes for a living may continue working throughout the nine days (but not on Tisha B'Av).
4. Improvements which are essential for living like fixing plumbing or installing safety measures are permitted.
5. One should not plant or modify the lawn/garden for pleasure. Maintaining the lawn/garden (weeding, watering, etc.) is permissible. Someone who landscapes for a living may continue working throughout the nine days.

Laundry

1. It is prohibited to wash or iron clothes, towels, tablecloths, and linens, even if one will not use them until after Tisha B'Av. It is even prohibited to have a nonjew wash it for you.
2. This also applies to washing sheitels.
3. Spot cleaning is permitted.
4. If all of one's clothes are soiled and one has *nothing* else to wear, they may wash the necessary garments. The same applies to washing young childrens' clothes if they don't have enough to last for the week.

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Wearing Freshly Laundered Clothes

1. It is forbidden to wear freshly laundered clothing or use fresh linens and towels during the nine days.
2. This does not apply to socks, underwear, and undershirts. Those can be worn freshly laundered.
3. On Shabbat one may wear freshly laundered clothes.

Shopping

1. One should not purchase new items like clothing, appliances, or other things which are a pleasure to acquire. This applies even if they will be delivered after Tisha B'Av.
2. Necessary items for day-to-day living like a new washing machine (if the old one is broken) or the like are permitted.
3. If an item is on significant sale and/or won't be available after Tisha B'Av, one may purchase it during the nine days (since the custom is not to incur a loss but rather to reduce pleasurable activities).
4. It is permissible to purchase items for a mitzvah, like Torah books that one wants to learn from during the nine days.
5. If one does not have non-leather shoes to wear on Tisha B'Av, they may purchase a pair during the nine days.

Showering

1. It is forbidden to wash one's body for pleasure. This includes taking regular hot or cold showers for pleasure. This also includes swimming for pleasure.
2. One may wash their hands, face, and feet with cold water.
3. One may wash dirt and perspiration off their body. Soap and shampoo can be used for this, and if cold water is difficult one can use warm water (since the custom is not to suffer but to reduce pleasurable activities).
4. One who showers every Friday in honor of Shabbat may do so in the regular manner on erev Shabbat during the nine days.

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Shabbat Chazon (the Shabbat which immediately precedes Tisha B'Av)

Before Shabbat / Shower and Clothing

1. One who showers every Friday in honor of Shabbat may do so in the regular manner on erev Shabbat during the nine days.
2. Rama records a custom to not wear Shabbos clothes on *Shabbat Chazon*. Many have the custom to wear Shabbos clothes as usual.
3. One may wear freshly laundered clothes on Shabbat.
4. One may not wear new clothes on Shabbat Chazon, unless they have nothing else to wear.
5. When Tisha B'Av is on Sunday, all agree that it is permissible to cut nails during the preceding week.

During Shabbat

6. One may eat meat, drink wine, and sing as usual throughout Shabbat Chazon
7. We do not have the standard *seudat mafseket* (eating a plain meal on the floor in solitude, etc.) on Shabbat, since public mourning is forbidden.
8. One may eat third meal as usual and bentch with a zimmun.
9. Be sure to stop eating and drinking by sunset (8:14 PM - Olney MD 2022)
10. One should not remove shoes, change clothing, or make any other outward preparations for Tisha B'Av until nightfall (8:58 PM - Olney MD 2022)

After Shabbat / Havdala

11. After nightfall, one should say "*baruch hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol*" (blessed is the One who sanctifies between the holy and the mundane) and then remove their leather shoes and change into regular clothing.
12. During maariv, we say *Ata Chonantanu* during the Silent Prayer, like on a regular Motzei Shabbat. One who forgot this or a woman who does not pray maariv should say *baruch hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol* before performing any melacha.
13. We do not recite the standard havdala on Motzei Shabbat. Only the blessing of Borei Meorei Ha'eish is recited (in shul, this is done before Eicha).
14. On Sunday night after nightfall we recite havdala with only a cup of wine/grape juice, but not a candle or *besamim* (fragrance).
15. An adult who needs to eat on Tisha B'Av should recite the regular havdala on a cup of grape juice before eating. In this case, they should not repeat havdala after Tisha B'Av.