

DINIM OF ROSH HASHANA

Erev Rosh Hashana

1. Some have a *minhag* to fast until midday (*chatzos*) on Erev Rosh Hashana (12:53 PM).
2. On Erev Rosh Hashanah the custom is to do '*Hatoras Nedarim*.' (Nullification of vows)
3. Relatives can be used for the '*Beis Din*' of '*Hatoras Nedarim*.'
4. Many women do not recite '*Hatoras Nedarim*' on Erev Rosh Hashana and instead rely on the Kol Nidrei Tefila on Yom Kippur night. Some are accustomed to make their husbands a '*shaliach*' to annul their vows when they recite '*Hatoras Nedarim*'. In doing so the text of the '*Hatoras Nedarim*' should be "*l'heter li v'lieishti*".
5. It is customary for men and boys to go to the '*Mikvah*' Erev Rosh Hashana.
7. '*Tevila*' should not take place prior to one hour before '*Chazos*.'
8. If '*Tevila*' is difficult (i.e. illness etc.) you can take a shower making sure that 12 1/2 liters of water will go on you in a constant flow.
9. It is preferable to take a haircut Erev Rosh Hashana before '*chatzos*.'
10. Additionally, nails should be cut Erev Rosh Hashana.
11. On Erev Rosh Hashana, one should try to spend as much time as possible doing mitzvos, repenting, giving tzedakah and going over the Tefilos for Yom Tov.
12. On Erev Rosh Hashana (or earlier) people visit the cemetery and daven by the graves of loved ones (or by *kivrei tzadikim*) for special mercy and chesed from Hashem.

Rosh Hashana

1. Because of the fear of judgment, one should wear more modest attire than they would normally wear on Yom Tov.
2. A single man or woman who lights candles and makes Kiddush for themselves should not recite the *bracha* of *shehechianu* at the time of lighting candles but rather at the time of Kiddush.
3. After Maariv, one should greet his friend with the traditional greeting of: '*l'shana tovah tikosev v'sechosem*' (for men) & '*l'shana tovah tikosevi v'sechoseimi*' (for women). Some people add '*l'alter l'chaim tovim u'lishalom*'. The respondent can either repeat the same greeting or say '*gam otach*' (also to you).
4. When Rosh Hashanah coincides with Shabbos there are different customs whether you sing '*shalom aleichem*'
5. After reciting *hamotzei* on the challah, we dip it in honey and only after eating a *kizayis* do some recite: *yehe ratzon shet'chadash aleinu shana tovah u'matuka*! (Most say this *yehe ratzon* after dipping the apple in honey.)
6. You should not forget to first dip the challah in salt as you do every Shabbos and Yom Tov.
7. Most people eat additional food items for a *siman tov* at the beginning of the meal.
8. If these items require a new *bracha* (i.e. an apple dipped in honey) the *yehe ratzon* is recited after saying the *bracha* and partaking of some of the food.
9. On foods that do not require a new *bracha* (i.e. head of a fish) the *yehe ratzon* should be said before partaking of the food.

10. You should respond with '*Amen*' if you hear someone reciting the *yehe ratzon*.
11. One who forgot *ya'aleh v'yavoh in birchas hamazon* on Rosh Hashana and already started the brocha of *hatov v'hamativ* must go back to the beginning of '*benching*.'
12. It is generally an accepted custom that women come to Shul to hear '*Tekias Shofar*.' It is sufficient to blow thirty *kolos* for the sick and infirm who are either home or hospitalized.
13. During the tefila of *aleinu* in *mussaf* the custom is to kneel to the ground beginning with the words of '*v'anachnu korim*'. Even if the floor of the Shul is carpeted one should place an additional separation (or at least his talis) between himself and the floor.
14. Those people who daven in a minyan where the shofar is sounded in *tefila b'lachash* as well, should: stop and listen to the shofar even if they are in the middle of a brocha. '*Hayom haras olam*' should not be said by them at that time but rather at the conclusion of the *brocha*. Someone who is finished with his *brocha* prior to the '*sheliach tzibbur*' should wait until the *ba'al tokaya* sounds the shofar and then continue with the *tzibbur*.
15. It is forbidden to feed the fish or ducks in the water on Yom Tov.
16. It is forbidden to prepare on the first day of Yom Tov for the second day.
17. We recite a *shehechianu* on the second night of Yom Tov as well. Do to the fact that there is a dispute regarding the *bracha*, it is appropriate to have a new fruit available or to wear a new suit and have in mind during Kiddush for this added obligation. Immediately following Kiddush (and the drinking of the wine) make the *bracha* on the new fruit and partake of it.
18. The *shehechianu* for a new suit only applies if it needed alterations. If the suit was a perfect fit and ready to wear, the *shehechianu* would have to be made at the time of the purchase.
19. There are different customs whether on the second night of Yom Tov we eat the special foods and recite the *yehe ratzon*.
20. Many have the custom not to eat nuts, sour fruit, vinegar, borscht or any sour or bitter food on Rosh Hashana.
21. It is preferable not to sleep on Rosh Hashana in the day time. If however you will not be able to function well during the day, you may lay down to sleep.
22. Many are accustomed to recite the entire '*Sefer Tehillim*' on Rosh Hashana.
23. Even if you are not careful to eat '*Pas Yisroel*' during the year, you should be *makpid* during the *aseres y'mei teshuvah*.