



TEMPLE DAVID

Kashrut Policy

Prepared by the Religious Life Committee December 2024

Purpose

The Kashrut Policy aims to ensure that there is clarity and consistency as to the foods that are permitted to be served, consumed and stored on the Temple David (TD) site and at TD events and functions.

We believe that for Progressive Jews in current times Kashrut observance is a sanctifying practice. As Progressive Jews we strive for a balance between ethics, Jewish Law (Halacha) and the practicalities of living in contemporary society as K'lal Yisrael (All Jewish people).

The Progressive Jewish values of Shleimut (doing what is fit, right and true), Shalom Bayit (peace in the home) and Shmirut Haguf (looking after one's body) are all taken into account throughout this policy.

At a glance

- This policy applies to TD staff, lay leaders, volunteers, congregants, visitors and caterers.
- The policy makes clear our practice and allows for people to make an informed choice about their own practice.
- Any queries with regards to TD's Kashrut Policy should be addressed to the TD Rabbi.

Scope

The standards of Kashrut at TD reflect our Progressive Jewish values.

Policy

1. The standards of Kashrut at TD reflect our Progressive Jewish values.
2. TD's standards of Kashrut that apply to events held at TD premises and all TD sponsored events held offsite are:
 - Only meat from ruminant animals with cloven – or split – hooves, such as cows, sheep, goats, lambs, oxen, and deer is acceptable.
 - Only the following fowl are acceptable: chickens, Cornish hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, quail, doves, pheasant, pigeons.

- Only fish that had fins and scales when caught are acceptable.
 - Any other meat or fowl or seafood is treif (not permitted according to Jewish dietary laws).
 - Meat and fowl cannot be prepared with or eaten together with milk or dairy products.
 - Fish with fins and scales are not classified as meat and therefore can be eaten together with milk or dairy products.
 - In accordance with the rabbinic notion of “d’var acher” (other matter), gelatine, suet, rennet, whey and E-number additives are considered as chemical ingredients no matter how they are derived and are therefore not classified as meat and can be eaten together with milk or dairy products.
 - TD’s kitchens are cleared and cleaned prior to the commencement of Pesach (Passover).
 - During the 7 days of Pesach:
 - any food or food products made from the five major grains (wheat, rye, barley, oats and spelt) and not completely cooked within 18 minutes after first coming into contact with water are classified as containing chametz (leaven) and are not permitted to be served on TD premises. Bread, cereal, cake, cookies, pizza, pasta, vegemite, beer and whisky are all examples of products that contain chametz.
 - ‘kitniyot’ that is legumes, grains and seeds are not permitted. This includes beans, buckwheat, caraway, cardamom, corn, edamame, fennel seeds, fenugreek, green beans, hemp seeds, lentils, linseed (flaxseed), millet, mustard, peas, poppy seeds, rapeseed, rice, sesame seeds, soybeans, sunflower seeds.
3. When referring to our food customs the terminology we use is:
- a. ‘dairy’ or ‘milchig’ or ‘chalav/i’ (milk or dairy products)
 - b. ‘pareve’ (neutral- neither milk nor meat) rather than vegetarian
 - c. ‘meaty’ or ‘fleishig’ or ‘basar/i’ (meat and fowl)
 - d. ‘pesachdik’ or ‘kosher l’pesach’ (fit for consumption or use during Pesach)
4. Wine that is certified kosher is used for Kiddush.
Any type of grape juice can be used for Kiddush.
5. During Pesach only wine and grape juice certified as kosher l’pesach is acceptable.
6. In line with TD’s welcoming and engagement practices, TD encourages congregants and visitors to bring food to TD for occasions such as an Oneg Shabbat (meal after a Shabbat

service). Home prepared food should only be brought to TD if its ingredients are milchig or pareve (pareve includes fish) and in accordance with this policy.

7. Commercially prepared food and “take away” food that meets the above guidelines for home prepared food is welcome at TD.
8. When possible T’zar Ba’alei Chayim (the health and welfare of animals) should be considered during the purchase process. It is accepted that budget may at times be taken into account over otherwise better choices when purchasing eg caged eggs vs free range eggs.

Procedures

1. Caterers are provided with a hard copy of TD’s Kashrut Policy and additional Guidelines as appropriate on an event-by-event basis prior to engagement.
2. Members and non-members planning to hold catered or self-catered events e.g. B'nei Mitzvah, wedding, welcoming ceremony, baby naming are provided with a hard copy of TD’s Kashrut Policy and additional Guidelines as appropriate on an event-by-event basis.
3. Advertisements for community events which include the sharing of BYO food provide an explanation of TD’s Kashrut Policy.
4. Families celebrating s’machot (eg B'nei Mitzvah) are informed that lollies distributed during religious services must be soft, e.g. Kosher Gelo lollies, such as these:
<https://kosherkingdom.com.au/lines/gelo-bonbons-fruit-400g>

Glossary

Basar/Basari Hebrew term for foods derived from meat or meat products including fowl.

Chalav/Chalavi Hebrew term for foods derived from milk or milk products.

Chametz Foods not eaten during Passover. Chametz typically includes leavened bread or any food that contains wheat, rye, barley, oats, or spelt, unless production has been supervised to ensure that it has not leavened.

D’var acher Rabbinic term for another matter or alternative viewpoint.

Fleishig Yiddish term for foods derived from meat or meat products.

Halacha "Jewish law;" more liberally, laws, practices and customs associated with all aspects of Jewish life.

Kashrut refers to Jewish religious dietary laws and their practice. Food that may be consumed according to halacha (Jewish law) is termed kosher meaning "fit" (in this context, fit for consumption).

Kiddush: literally "sanctification" is a blessing recited over wine or grape juice to sanctify the Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Additionally, it refers to a small repast held after services.

Kitniyot: literally legumes but is extended over pesach to include, grains and seeds. This includes beans, buckwheat, caraway, cardamom, corn, edamame, fennel seeds, fenugreek, green beans, hemp seeds, lentils, linseed (flaxseed), millet, mustard, peas, poppy seeds, rapeseed, rice, sesame seeds, soybeans, sunflower seeds.

K'lal Yisrael: literally "all of Israel" which has come to mean the entirety of world Jewry. It connotes the intent of different types of Jews to get along despite differing views.

Kosher l' Pesach "Ritually fit for consumption during Passover;" kashrut (Hebrew); pertaining most commonly to food that is fit to be eaten according to Jewish law.

Milchig Yiddish term for foods derived from milk or milk products.

Oneg Shabbat: literally "the joy of Shabbat" which has come to refer to a meal enjoyed after a Shabbat service.

Pareve Containing neither meat/meat derivatives nor milk/milk derivatives; food that can be eaten with either milk or meat meals, e.g., fruits, vegetables, eggs, fish.

Pesach "Passover;" a major Jewish festival that commemorates the Israelites Exodus from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

Seder/Sederim "Order;" ritual dinner that includes the retelling of the story of the Israelite's Exodus from Egypt; plural: sederim.

Shabbat - "Sabbath;" plural: Shabbatot. Refers to the 7th day of Creation. The day of rest. Friday evening to Saturday evening.

Shalom Bayit: literally "peace at home" – making decisions that respect all within one's "home".

Shleimut: literally "wholeness" - this guiding principle, which directs us towards food decisions that feel right and suit our personalities and lives, should be considered when making personal food decisions.

Shmirat HaGuf: literally "guarding one's body" – looking after our bodies in the context of what we eat.

Simchah - S'machot (plural): - Literally "Happiness." Refers to any happy occasion or celebration.

Tikkun Olam: literally "repairing of the world" Jewish concept that it is our responsibility to partner with God to improve the world. Often refers to social action and social justice

Treif is the Yiddish word for any form of non-kosher food.

Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim refers to the value of an animal's life and the need to restrict cruelty

Responsibility and Reporting

The Temple David Board of Governance, through its Religious Life Committee, is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented and reviewed.

Authorisation

Date of approval by the Board:

Review date:

Review by: Religious Life Committee