

Halachot of the Three Weeks and Nine Days

1. During the three weeks beginning with the 17th of Tammuz, and until after Tisha B'Av we behave with minhagim of mourning for the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash, becoming progressively stricter on Rosh Chodesh Av (beginning the 9 days) and the week within which Tisha B'Av falls. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551*
2. During the entire three week period we do not make weddings, listen to music, dance, take haircuts/shave, wear new clothing or eat a new fruit which would require a Beracha of Shehechyanu (except on Shabbos). *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:1,2,12,14,17,18*
3. During the three weeks one should refrain from going to any dangerous places, (e.g. swimming in an ocean or river) and certainly one should be extra careful during the 9 days from Rosh Chodesh Av until after Tisha B'Av, (because one's mazel is weak during this period). *Piskei Tshuvos 551:1,46*
4. From the 17th of Tammuz until Rosh Chodesh Av one is permitted to swim (in a pool), even for one who has not gone swimming yet this Summer season. *Tshuvos V'Hanhagos 2:263, Piskei Tshuvos 551:46*
5. If one has a court matter pending with a non-jew during the Three weeks, one should preferably adjourn the matter until the Month of Elul, but at least until after Tisha B'Av. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:1*
6. During the Three weeks one is permitted to conduct regular business dealings. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:2, see also Sha'ar Hatziyun 13*
7. If one has started construction of a home extension, or re-painting of a home before the Three weeks, one may have the work continue until Rosh Chodesh Av, at which point one should try to delay the work until after Tisha B'Av. However, one may not *begin* work after the 17th of Tammuz. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:2*
8. Nevertheless, one may hire a contractor during the three weeks to make any necessary repairs to one's home. *Piskei Tshuvos 551:8*
9. One should not schedule surgery during the Three weeks, and certainly not during the Nine days, unless the doctor insists that it cannot medically be postponed. *Piskei Tshuvos 551:1*
10. During the Three weeks one is permitted to make preparations for a wedding scheduled for after Tisha B'Av including the sewing and purchase of new clothing and other items needed for the wedding. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:2*
11. During the Nine days (beginning Rosh Chodesh Av) the custom is that one does not wear freshly laundered clothing. Therefore, one should wear all the clothing one will need during the Nine days for a short while (according to many Poskim - 20 minutes), sometime before the start of the Nine days. One may wear multiple layers of clothing to accomplish this. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3, Piskei Tshuvos 551:17*
12. Some poskim permit one to lay the clothing on the floor, which also removes its freshly laundered status and permits one to wear it during the Nine days. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3, Piskei Tshuvos 551:17*
13. During the Nine days the custom is that one does not do any laundry, even via a non-Jewish housekeeper. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3*
14. However, one may bring laundry to a non-Jewish dry cleaners before the Nine days even if one knows that they will launder the clothing during the Nine days. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3*

15. During the Nine days (beginning Rosh Chodesh Av) one may not make a major purchase (e.g. a new car, furniture - normally used by the entire family) because this would require one to make a beracha of Hatov V'Hameitiv which one cannot make during the Nine days. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 223:5, 551:2 MB11, see Sha'ar Hatziyun 13, Igros Moshe 3:80, Nitay Gavriel pg. 51*
16. During the Nine days one may not purchase any clothing or shoes (including inexpensive items such as socks) even if one does not intend to wear it until after Tisha B'Av. (Prior to Rosh Chodesh Av one may purchase inexpensive clothing items which would not require a Shehechyanu). *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:7*
17. During the Nine Days one is permitted to purchase items which fulfill both of the following conditions: a) items that do not require a beracha of Shehechyanu or Hatov V'Hamaitiv, and b) items that are not clothing. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551*
18. During the Nine days, even when purchasing is prohibited, only actual buying is prohibited. Comparison shopping and window shopping is permitted. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551*
19. Although generally one may not purchase clothing during the Nine days, if one needs non-leather shoes for Tisha B'Av one may purchase them during the Nine days. *Igros Moshe 3:80*
20. If one will run out of clean clothing for small children to wear in the Nine days one may purchase new clothing for them during the Nine days. *Mishnas Yaakov 551 citing Magen Avraham*
21. If there is a sale and one will be unable to purchase the same clothing after Tisha B'Av at the sale price, one may make the purchase during the Nine days, but may not wear the clothing until after Tisha B'Av. *S'U Kinyan Torah 1:109 cited in Piskei Tshuvos 551:27*
22. During the Nine days, although one may not do laundry, or bring laundry to a non-Jewish cleaner, it is permitted to do laundry for small children in small loads if necessary. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3, 14*
23. There is a machlokes Ha'Poskim whether one may cut their nails during the Nine days. The Taz prohibits it, while the Magen Avraham permits it. Therefore L'kovod Shabbos one may cut their nails on Friday. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3*
24. However, according to some Poskim only one who cuts their nails every Friday L'kovod Shabbos may cut their nails on the Friday before Tisha B'Av. *Elya Rabbah 551, Yad Efraim 551, Kaf Hachaim 551:48, Piskei Tshuvos 551:19* es. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 426:MB11, see Sha'ar Hatziyun*
25. A Shaitel is categorized as an article of clothing for purposes of the halachos of the Nine days. Therefore one should not wash a shaitel or have it professionally cleaned and/or set during the Nine days. *Piskei Tshuvos 551:20*
26. However one may curl or set a shaitel at home during the Nine days (so long as one is not a professional "shaitelmacher"). *Piskei Tshuvos 551:20*
27. The minhag is that one should not say Kiddush Levanah until after Tisha B'Av. However, some have the minhag to follow the opinion of the Ari'zal who says that one should preferably say it that night. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:8, see Be'er Hataiv 25, Levushei Srad 551:8*
28. Before saying Kiddush Levana on Motz'ei Tisha B'Av one should wash his hands, eat something, and put on regular shoes. There is a machlokes Ha'Poskim whether one may cut their nails during the Nine days. The Taz prohibits it, while the Magen Avraham permits it. Therefore L'kovod Shabbos one may cut their nails on Friday. *Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Berurah 551:3*