

CHOL HAMOED

INTRODUCTION TO CHOL HAMOED

Introduction to Chol HaMoed

The intermediate days of *Passover* and *Sukkot* (between the first and last days, which are festival days) are called “*chol ha'moed*.” *Passover* has four *chol ha'moed* days outside of *Eretz Yisrael* and five days in *Eretz Yisrael*. *Sukkot* has five *chol ha'moed* days outside of Israel and six inside *Eretz Yisrael*.

The restrictions that apply to the *Jewish festival* days generally do not apply to the *chol ha'moed* days (see below for exceptions).

CHOL HAMOED: EXPERT WORK

Chol HaMoed: No Expert Work

You may not do “expert” or “professional” work of certain types on *chol ha'moed*, and some types of expert craftsmen/women may not do their trades on *chol ha'moed*.

EXAMPLES

- You may sew or lay bricks or other such labors, but not if you are an expert or professional in those fields and you are doing expert work.
- Skilled writers and artists may not do their professional writing, calligraphy, or drawing (even for free!) on *chol ha'moed*. They may not do calligraphy or *sofer* work (*Torah*, *tefilin*, *mezuzah*), but they may write normally.
- If you are not a professional writer or expert craftsman/artist, you may write on *chol ha'moed* but the preferred practice is to use a *shinu'i* --an altered method of writing, such as:
 - Using your other hand,
 - Holding the pen/pencil differently from normal, or
 - Writing diagonally across the paper.

CHOL HAMOED: SHAVING AND HAIR CUTS

Shaving/Hair Cuts and Jewish Festivals

You should not shave or cut your hair on *chol ha'moed*.

REASON *Chazal* made a *takana* so people would do those types of grooming before each holiday and not wait until *chol ha'moed*.

Chol HaMoed: Exceptions for Shaving

It is best not to shave during *chol ha'moed*. You MAY shave if:

- You normally shave every day, and
- You shaved before the *Jewish festival* began.

NOTE Even if you only shave 2 or 3 times per week instead of every day, it is still considered as if you shave regularly.

NOTE You may shave during *omer* if not shaving might cause you to lose your job or otherwise incur financial loss. A large financial loss is subjective to the individual's actual wealth and also to that person's perception of what is a large loss.

CHOL HAMOED: CUTTING NAILS

Chol HaMoed: Cutting Nails

You may not cut your nails (fingernails or toenails) during chol ha'moed.

EXCEPTION Women before going to mikva may cut their nails on chol ha'moed.

CHOL HAMOED: LAUNDRY

Laundry before Jewish Festivals

You should not do laundry on chol ha'moed.

REASON Due to a takana so people would do their laundry before each holiday and not wait until chol ha'moed.

NOTE If you had already done the laundry before the Jewish festival began and now no clean clothes remain:

- You may do laundry for babies and small children (3 years old or less) on chol ha'moed.
- You may not do laundry for adults.