

HAVDALA: SPICES (BESAMIM)

Havdala Spices Only on Saturday Night

The only havdala for which we use spices and candle is Saturday night. After Yom Kippur, just use wine and a candle, see Yom Kippur: Ending: Havdala. See also How To Hold the Havdala Cup (and Spices).

What To Use for Havdala

You may use any nice-smelling substance for havdala “besamim,” not just spices; but the source of the scent must be natural. There is no priority for using cinnamon.

NOTE For besamim, you may scratch a lemon or orange or other aromatic fruit and sniff the fruit itself (but not your hand). However, say the normal havdala blessing, borei minei v'samim, instead of the normal blessing for smelling fruits (ha'notein rei'ach tov ba'peiros).

How Many Spices To Use for Havdala

Only one spice is needed for the spice blessing for havdala, even though the blessing uses the term minei, which is plural.

How To Hold the Spices

For how to hold the spices, see How To Hold the Havdala Cup (and Spices)