

# MOTZI MATZA: BLESS ON/EAT MATZA

## MATZA: WHY

### Matza: Meaning

Matza represents:

- Food of poor people, and
- The unleavened bread that the Israelites ate when leaving Egypt.

**NOTE** A pun reflects this dual meaning of poor bread plus the story of leaving Egypt, since “lechem oni” may mean “bread of poor people” or “bread of (many) answers.”

## MATZA: WHAT KIND

### When Shmura Matza Is Necessary

The only time you must use shmura matza is for the four commandments of motzi, matza, koreich, and afikoman.

**NOTE** You may use any other kosher for Passover matza, even for the rest of seder. There is no need for using shmura matza for the other days of Passover.

### Hand Shmura Matza or Machine Shmura Matza

Hand shmura matza has some advantage in that it was made with the intention of being for a mitzva, but machine shmura matza has the advantage of being less likely to become chametz since it is automated and not touched by human hands.

## MATZA: HOW MUCH

### How Much Matza To Eat

#### Motzi, Matza

For motzi and matza together, you must eat at least 1.9 fl. oz. (56 ml) of matza within a 4-minute period from when you begin eating.

#### Afikoman

For afikoman, you must eat another 1.9 fl. oz of matza; b'di'avad, at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) is sufficient.

**NOTE** This amount is about 1/2 of a machine shmura matza, or 1/3 of a hand shmura matza.

**NOTE** If your mouth is too dry to eat that quickly, you may drink water with the matza.

## MOTZI/MATZA: BLESSINGS

### Why Two Blessings over Matza

We say two blessings over the matza: ha'motzi lechem min ha'aretz and al achilat matza.

**REASON** The blessing on motzi is one of enjoyment (nehenin); the blessing on matza is a blessing on a commandment (mitzva).

### How To Do Motzi and Matza

The seder leader says the blessing “ha'motzi” while holding the three (which are now 2 1/2) shmura matzas, drops the bottom one, and says the next blessing, al achilat matza. Everyone takes a small piece from the two top matzas and eats it, along with enough additional shmura matza to fulfill the minimum requirement.

