

Chanukah Guide



The Holiday of Chanukah evokes feelings of pride and joy as we remember how the Maccabees

overcame the powerful Syrian/Greek armies, asserting the right of every Jew to practice his faith. We hope this guide will prove helpful in observing the central mitzvah of the day - the lighting of the menorah.

THE MENORAH

The menorah can be lit with candles or with oil. Olive oil is preferred, as this type of oil was used in the Beit Hamikdash. One should use a menorah which has the eight branches arranged in a straight level line not in a circle, zig zag, or diagonal.

On each menorah, you will note a ninth branch above and in the center of the others. Known as the shamash, servant, this candle should be lit, whereupon it is then used to light the others.

LOCATION OF THE MENORAH

In order to publicize the miracle of Chanukah, the menorah should be placed in a window facing the street and should be higher than one foot off the floor and lower than 30 feet from the floor.

THE LIGHTING CEREMONY

On the first evening of Chanukah, one candle is lit. It is placed on the far right side of the menorah as you face it. On each succeeding evening, in addition to replenishing the candle(s) lit the previous evening, another candle is added to the left. Using the lit shamash, the candles are always lit from left to right after the recitation of the following blessings:

BA-RUCH A-TAH ADO-SHEM ELOKAY
-NU ME-LECH HA-OLOM A-SHEER
KI-DESHA-NU BE-MITZVOTAV
VE-TZI-VA-NUH LE-HAD-LIK
NER SHEL CHANUKAH.

"Blessed art Thou, O Lord our G-d,
King of the Universe, who has
sanctified us by His commandments
and has commanded us to kindle the
Chanukah lights."

Immediately following this blessing,
the second blessing is recited.

BA-RUCH A-TAH ADO-SHEM ELOKAY
-NU ME-LECH HA-OLOM SHEHASA
NISIM LA-AVO-TEY-NU BA-YAMIM
HA-HEYM BA-Z'MAN HA-ZEH.

"Blessed art Thou, O Lord our G-d,
King of the Universe, who performed
miracles for our Fathers in days of old
at this season."

The following blessing is said on the
first evening only.

BA-RUCH A-TAH ADO-SHEM ELOKAY
-NU ME-LECH HA-OLOM SHEHE-CHI-
YA-NU VE-KI-MO-NU VEHI-GI-A-NU
LAZ-MAN HA-ZEH.

"Blessed art Thou O Lord, our G-d,
King of the Universe, who has kept us
in life, and has preserved us and
enabled us to reach this season." After
these blessings are recited, the
candles are lit. It is then customary to
sing or recite "Haneyrot-Halolu," and
"Maoz Tzur" (Rock of Ages).

THE LIT CANDLES

It is prohibited to derive any
personal benefit from the Chanukah
lights. For example, one may not use
the lights for reading. This restriction
is reflective of the principle that the
Chanukah lights are to be used solely
for the purpose of publicizing the
miracle of Chanukah.

However, the service candle (shamus)
may be used for one's personal
benefit.

There is a custom that women refrain
from doing work at home while the
Chanukah candles are burning. The
types of restricted work are: sewing,
laundry and other types of work
prohibited on Chol Hamoed. This
restriction is set aside where it will
involve a financial loss. Cooking is not
included in this restriction and is
permissible while the candles are
burning.

TIME OF LIGHTING

**Weekdays - November 28, 29,
30, December 1, 2, 5, 6, 2021.**

The Chanukah candles should be lit
shortly after nightfall at approxi-
mately 5:00 PM and should burn
for at least a half hour.

Erev Shabbat - Friday 12/3/2021

The Chanukah candles should be lit
before the Shabbat candles (before
3:54 PM) and should burn for at
least one and a half hours. Shabbat
candles are often used in the Meno-
rah for Friday night since the regular
colored Chanukah candles do not
burn long enough.

**Motzei Shabbat - Saturday Evening
12/4/2021.** The Chanukah candles
should be lit after Havdalah (4:56
PM) and should burn for at least a
half hour.

