

י"ג ניסן תשפ"ו / March 31, 2026

Introduction

The following memo provides important information about חמץ שעבר עליו הפסח at various establishments and is the culmination of several months of research by AKO's Post Pesach Committee.

In general, it is difficult to make definitive statements about the acceptability of purchasing *chametz* from specific stores after *Pesach* due to practical and halachic ambiguities. Of course, any certified retail location falls under the responsibility of its hashgacha, and they should be contacted for details. Additionally, this information reflects general details available about these companies; specific circumstances may vary by location. For instance, while multiple Walmart locations were evaluated and determined not to pose any concerns, the Cleveland-area Walmart was identified as an exception.

First, it is not easy to establish Jewish or non-Jewish ownership. Nonetheless, in this paper we have assumed that publicly traded companies may be treated as non-Jewish entities since the majority of potential stockholders are not Jewish.

Secondly, even if a product is sold in a non-Jewish store, it may be חמץ שעבר עליו הפסח if the distributor is Jewish. Determining the identity of the distributor is a formidable task because this information is proprietary and is not readily available. Additionally, some chain stores will use different distributors (and sometimes multiple distributors) based on location, so each store would need to be researched individually. Regarding Target, we recommend that each Rav visit their local Target store and speak with the grocery merchandising manager to determine the distributor used for each department (e.g., produce, dairy, frozen, shelf stable items).

Thirdly, while *chametz* that is delivered after *Pesach* to a Jewish establishment is not חמץ שעבר עליו הפסח, it is difficult to determine the arrival date of any given product, as the turnaround time is generally unknown. Nonetheless, some *Poskim* maintain that if there is a *safek* about when product was delivered, the principle of ספק דרבנן לקולא applies, while others hold that ספק דרבנן לקולא is not applicable in this situation for various reasons.

Lastly, some Jewish companies participate in a *mechiras chametz* while continuing to operate during *Pesach*. There are divergent opinions among *Poskim* about the validity of a sale by a company that remains operational during *Pesach*. Furthermore, the sale does not cover *chametz* acquired during *Pesach* because one cannot sell דבר שלא בא לעולם. To address these concerns, some *Poskim* recommend selling the entire company rather than just the *chametz*. However, there is also a dispute whether this approach is acceptable.

Our goal is not to recommend buying or avoiding *chametz* from any particular establishment. Additionally, it is beyond the scope of our mission to investigate the suitability of any particular *mechirah*. Rather, each *kashrus* organization or Rav must formulate their own set of standards and guidelines regarding the purchase of *chametz*. Once that is done, this memo will provide helpful information in determining which stores fall into acceptable or not acceptable categories for post-*Pesach* *chametz* purchases.

Finally, in our fast-paced evolving economy, consumers should remember to pause automatic subscriptions through Amazon (Subscribe & Save), Instacart (Auto Order) etc. of *chametz* products.

E. Jewish Owned Company – Type 2

Mechiras chametz executed that includes selling of the operating business, but store is open on Pesach

- D&W Fresh Market
- Family Fare
- gopuff.com
- Grand Union
- Lumberton Distribution Center
- Martin’s Super Markets
- Piggly Wiggly
- Restaurant Depot/Jetro
- SpartanNash (entire company)
- Shoprite..... Some locations are Jewish-owned. The chametz in Jewish owned stores after Pesach would only be permitted if a valid sale was executed. Different sales, each with its own text, were executed by various Rabbonim for ShopRite stores in different locations. Poskim should be consulted to determine the halachic validity of each sale. Such analysis is beyond the scope of our committee’s abilities. Additionally, see the discussion below regarding Wakefern, whose ownership structure affects all ShopRite stores, including those that are not Jewish-owned.

F. Partial Jewish Ownership

Store and distributor are partially owned by Jews (i.e., less than 50%) and business operates on Pesach

The Jewish owners sell their shares (not only a mechirah of the chametz) to a non-Jew before Pesach

Since the majority of the company is owned by non-Jews, the *Zecher Yitzchok* (Siman 8) and *Chemed Moshe* (quoted by *Mishna Berurah, Sha’ar HaTziun 448:4*) hold that חמץ שעבר עליו הפסח is *batel b’rov* if there is a majority of non-Jewish ownership, though *Sha’ar HaTziun* and others question this position.

- Wakefern.....which supplies all ShopRite stores
Wakefern Food Corporation is a cooperative - which is owned by the ShopRite store owners, some of whom are Jewish - and arranges transfer of Jewish ownership to non-Jewish partners.

G. Online Distributors

Online merchants, such as Amazon, Sam's Club, Target.com and Walmart.com, are not Jewish-owned, but often serve as distributors for other businesses, some of whom are Jewish owned. The name of the supplier is sometimes posted on the website and consumers should make a reasonable effort to determine if the supplier is Jewish before purchasing *chametz* after *Pesach*.

PSA for Amazon sellers who deal in chometz: because of how Amazon processes sales and returns, it’s important to consult a competent Rav about how to structure the mechirah properly, especially to avoid issues with returns that may occur over Pesach.

Alphabetical Listing

Section where information can be found about specific establishments

7-Eleven.....C	Grand Union.....E	Shaw's.....A
Acme.....A	Gristedes.....B	Shoprite.....C, E, F
Alberton's.....A	Hannaford.....A	SpartanNash.....E
Aldi.....A	Jewel-Osco.....A	Star Markets.....A
Amazon.....G	Key Food.....B	Starbucks (Corporate).....A
Atlantic Grocery Supply.....B	Kmart.....A	Starbucks (Kiosk).....C
BJ's.....A	Kroger.....A	Stop and Shop.....B
Costco.....A	Lidl.....A	SuperFresh.....B
CVS.....A	Lumberton Distrib Center.....E	Target.....A, B, G
D&W Fresh Market.....E	Martin's Super Markets.....E	Tom Thumb.....A
D'Agostino.....B	Meijer.....A	Tops Friendly Markets.....D
Dollar General.....A	Pavilions.....A	Total Wine.....A
Dollar Tree.....A	Piggly Wiggly.....E	Trader Joes.....A
Duane Reade.....A	Price Chopper.....D	Vons.....A
Dunkin Donuts.....C	Publix.....A	Wakefern.....F
Family Fare.....E	Randall's.....A	Walgreens.....A
Food Emporium.....B	Restaurant Depot/Jetro.....E	Walmart.....A, G
Foodway.....B	Rite Aid.....A	Wawa.....A
Giant Eagle.....D	Safeway.....A	Wegmans.....A
Gopuff.com.....E	Sam's Club.....A, G	Whole Foods.....A
	Sedano's Supermarkets.....B	Winn Dixie.....B