

## LAWS OF CHANUKAH

- On the first night three brachot, blessings are recited. "Lehadlik ner shel Chanukah", "She asa nissim" and "Shehecheyanu".
- On the other nights only the first two blessings are said.
- All the blessings should be recited before actually lighting the candles. First light the *Shamash* before the blessings to avoid delay. It is forbidden to speak between the recitation of the blessings and the completion of candle lighting.
- "*Haneirot Halalu*" is recited either during or after the lighting of the additional candles.
- "*Maoz tsur yeshuaty*" then sung.
- Place first candle on the extreme right of the Menorah. On the second night add a candle on the left. Light the newest candle first and proceed to the right.
- There are different customs regarding the placement of the candles, some follow the right and left of the observer from outside, some follow the right and left of the person lighting inside.
- Do not remove the *Shamash* from the wick until the flame catches on most of the wick.
- One does not add candles if they forgot to light on any night..
- The *Menorah* should not be moved after it has been lit.
- If the *Menorah* was lit in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law and it was extinguished, one is not obligated to relight it, but one may relight it without reciting a blessing.
- If the *Menorah* was not lit properly in the first place, or was lit in a windy place and blew out then one is obligated to relight if it went out within 1/2 hour after nightfall.
- On Friday afternoon, the Chanukah candles should be lit before the Shabbat candle-lighting time (if one accepted Shabbat early, it is forbidden to light Chanukah candles). *Mincha* should be said before lighting, if possible.
- Remember to put in more oil or bigger candles on Friday, so that they burn 1/2 hour after nightfall. Try to light just before the Shabbat candles, (without of course delaying the lighting of the Shabbat candles)
- When lighting on Saturday night, some authorities say that one should light Chanuka candles before *Havdalah*, others say after *Havdalah*. One should follow their family custom in this. (Mishna Berurah 681:2 and Aruch HaShulchan 681:2). One may not use the *Menorah* as the candle for *Havdalah*.
- If one is a guest at someone's house (and staying there), one should give the owner a small amount of money to buy a portion in their candles and one may fulfil the obligation through the owner. Alternatively the guest may light his own *Menorah*.
- If one is eating out then one should light the *Menorah* at their place of residence.
- During morning prayers, *Shacharit*, one should recite the full *Hallel* every day.
- "*Al hanissim*" the special paragraph of prayers for Chanukah is added in the silent prayers, *Shmoneh Esreh* and also in Grace after meals. If one forgot to say this addition, one should not repeat either *Shmoneh Esreh* or Grace. It is customary to light a *Menorah* in the Synagogue every evening. It is placed at the southern wall of the Synagogue, in imitation of the *Menorah* in the Temple in Jerusalem. (Rabbi Mordechai Becher, Ohr Somayach Institutions [www.ohr.edu](http://www.ohr.edu). For final rulings, consult your Rav.)

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