

Shabbat Etiquette & Practice

Compiled by Michael Rudolph

(version 1.2)

Item	Your Home	Another's Home	Ohev Yisrael	Conservative Synagogue
<u>Erev Shabbat</u>				
Arriving on time	Greatly encouraged	Very important	Very important	Very important
Kissing door <i>mezuzah</i>	Encouraged	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bringing gift to host	N/A	Optional; no flowers	N/A	N/A
Manner of dress	You control	Conservative, neat	Conservative, neat	Conservative, dress-up
<i>Kippah</i> / head scarf	You control	Come prepared	Yes / optional	Yes / come prepared
Wearing <i>tallit</i>	Not usual	Not guest	Only leader	No, or only leader
Using cell phone	You control	Turn off or vibrate	Turn off or vibrate	Turn off or leave home
Food for meal or <i>oneg</i>	Biblically kosher (at least)	Check kind of <i>kashrut</i>	Biblically kosher (Lev 11)	<i>Halachically</i> kosher
<i>Benchers/Siddurim/Bibles</i>	Advisable to provide	Host's decision	Provided	Usually provided
Ceremonies:				
-Candle lighting	Yes, before <i>Shabbat</i>	Yes, host decides time	Yes, before <i>Shabbat</i>	Yes, before <i>Shabbat</i>
-Traditional blessing	Your decision	Host's decision	No. Substitute for <i>v'tzivanu</i>	Yes
-Opening prayer	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
-Blessing children	Yes, if children	Host's decision	Not usually	Not usually
-A woman of valor	Yes, read by married man	Host's decision	Not usually	Not usually
- <i>L'cha Dodi</i>	Your decision	Host's decision	Yes	Yes
- <i>Shalom Aleychem</i>	Your decision	Host's decision	Not currently	Yes
- <i>Kiddush</i> (sweet wine)	Yes	Expect yes	Yes	Yes
- <i>Hamotzi</i> (2 loaves)	Yes	Expect yes	Yes	Yes
- <i>Nigunim</i> or songs	Your decision	Host's decision	Yes	Sometimes
-Grace before meal	Your decision	Host's decision	Sometimes	No
-The meal or <i>oneg</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
-Discussions	Peaceful, non-business	Peaceful, non-business	Peaceful, non-business	Peaceful, non-business
-Grace after meal	Advisable	Host's decision	Yes	Congregational decision

Item	Your Home	Another's Home	Ohev Yisrael	Conservative Synagogue
<u>Shabbat Morning at Synagogue (Many items apply to Erev Shabbat as well)</u>				
Arriving on time			Very important	Very important
Kissing door <i>mezuzah</i>			Encouraged	Yes
Manner of dress			Conservative, neat	Conservative, dress-up
Wearing religious jewelry			Yes, but avoid crosses & fish	Yes, Jewish themes
Terminology used when speaking			Jewish & Messianic Jewish	Jewish
Men wearing <i>kippot</i> / women head scarfs			Services vary / optional	Yes / come prepared
Men wearing <i>tallitot</i>			Refer to policy on <i>tallit</i>	Jews only
Women wearing <i>tallitot</i>			Refer to policy on <i>tallit</i>	Not usually
Using cell phone			Turn to off or vibrate	Turn off or leave home
Carrying <i>Siddur</i> to service			Yes, if <i>Siddur</i> is used	No. <i>Siddur</i> provided
Carrying Bible to service			Yes	No. <i>Chumash</i> provided
Conversing during service			Keep to minimum	Watch what others do
Standing when:				
- <i>Sh'ma</i>			Yes	Often no
-Ark opened			Yes	Yes
- <i>Torah</i> lifted			Yes	Yes
- <i>Amidah</i>			Yes	Yes
- <i>Aaronic</i> Benediction			Yes	No
-Mourner's <i>Kaddish</i>			Mourners only	Mourners only
- <i>Shulchan Adonai</i>			Yes	N/A
Leaving or entering sanctuary when:				
-Ark open, <i>Torah</i> scroll dressed			Use discretion	No
- <i>Torah</i> scroll lifted or processed			No	No
-Silent <i>Amidah</i>			Not applicable	No
-Worshippers standing			Discouraged	No
-Rabbi giving sermon			Discouraged	No
Writing on paper			Yes	No
Writing in Bibles & <i>Siddurim</i>			For study only	No
Driving vehicle to service			Yes	Yes
Turning on electric devices			Yes	No
Heating and light cooking			Yes	No

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<u>Shabbat Morning at Synagogue (continued)</u>				
Carrying money			Yes	Some "yes," some "no"
Giving offering, <i>tzadaka</i> , etc.			Yes	Usually no
Purchasing gasoline, food, recreation, other commodities			Some "yes," some "no"	Some "yes," some "no"
Paying for hotel, transportation, and recreation associated with conferences			Yes	Unknown
Placing <i>Siddur</i> or Bible on floor			No	No
Kissing <i>Siddur</i> or Bible if falls to floor			Encouraged	Yes
Touching and kissing processing <i>Torah</i> scroll with <i>Siddur</i> , Bible, or <i>tzitzit</i>			Yes	Yes
Touching and kissing processing <i>Torah</i> scroll with hand			Discouraged	No
Taking photographs during services			Only with permission	No
Playing, texting, talking, etc. during services			No	No
Instrumental praise & worship			Yes	No
Dancing during worship			Yes, when appropriate	No
Raising hands in worship			Yes	No
Clapping hands during services			Yes when appropriate	No
Shouting with exuberance			Permitted with limits	No
Projecting words of liturgical prayers on screen			Yes	No
Using <i>Siddur</i> as vehicle for praying liturgically			Partially	Completely
Exhibiting the Gifts of the <i>Ruach Hakodesh</i>			Yes	No
Vocalizing prayer requests			Yes	Only for <i>m'sheberach</i>
Pronouncing the Tetragrammaton Name of God during prayer & <i>Torah</i> reading			No, pronounce it <i>Adonai</i>	No, pronounce it <i>Adonai</i>
Pronouncing the Tetragrammaton Name of God at other times			No, pronounce it <i>Hashem</i>	No, pronounce it <i>Hashem</i>
Making other substitutions for <i>Adonai</i> or <i>Eloheyenu</i>			Permitted	<i>Adoshem</i> or <i>Elokeynu</i>
Pronouncing the English word "God" in prayer or conversation			Yes	Yes
Speaking publicly during service			Yes, if a word or testimony	No
Holding hands while praying			Permitted, not encouraged	No
Taking distracting child out of sanctuary			Yes	Yes
Making a <i>Kiddush</i> (wine or grape juice)			Yes, with wine or juice	Yes, with wine only
Type of <i>kashrut</i>			According to Leviticus 11	Usually <i>Halachic</i>
Separating <i>milchic</i> and <i>fleshing</i> at <i>onegs</i>			No, unless special event	Yes
<i>B'rucha: HaMotzi Lechem</i>			Yes	Yes
Praying Grace (before meals) at <i>onegs</i>			Not usually	No
Praying <i>Birkat Hamazon</i> (Grace after meal) at <i>onegs</i>			Yes	Sometimes
Praying directly to Yeshua			Allowed but not preferred	No. To God, the Eternal
Having <i>sechel</i> (common sense)			Very important	Very important