

OR HADASH
A Reconstructionist Congregation
190 Camp Hill Road
Fort Washington, PA 19034



Guidelines for Caterers without Kosher Supervision, or Self-Catering

Jewish tradition has created guidelines around food to support sacred eating. According to the standards of our community, kosher or kashrut is defined as dairy/pareve/vegetarian. This is the definition we use when we refer to dairy-kosher. More traditional communities have more restrictive definitions of kosher. Please respect our community kashrut standards by only bringing dairy and pareve foods into the kitchen.

The following are guidelines for caterers without kosher supervision, or for congregants who are self-catering, that will allow them to conform to the synagogue's kashrut policies. Any questions or clarifications should be directed to the synagogue administrator or the Rabbi.

1. Caterers must submit both the *Or Hadash Catering Agreement* and a *detailed menu* listing of all items to be served no later than 60 (sixty) days before an event. *Specific menu details* must be included. For example, "Hors d'oeuvres" is not acceptable; the content of each food product must be described (e.g., mushrooms stuffed with bread crumbs, peppers, and onions sautéed in olive oil).
2. **Meat, meat products, or meat derivatives of any kind may not be served.** This includes but is not limited to poultry, beef, pork, veal, lamb or any food that contains animal by-products such as chicken broth or lard. If you have questions about the permissibility of any of the food to be served, please contact the synagogue administrator or Rabbi for assistance.
3. **Certain fish and seafood (shrimp, crab, lobster, eel, oysters, etc.) and any products derived from them may not be served.** Most fish with fins and scales (tuna, salmon, tilapia, etc.) are permitted. If you have questions about the permissibility of any of the food to be served please contact the synagogue administrator or Rabbi for assistance.
4. All fruits and vegetables are permitted. Eggs, nuts, pasta, and grains are also permitted. These are foods which, in their natural state, are neither meat nor dairy.
5. Wine served at the synagogue does not need to be certified kosher.
6. Serving pieces, china, glassware, utensils, table linens, and portable ovens, if necessary, must be provided by the caterer.