

The Obligation of Eating in the Sukkah the First Two Nights

Though we eat all of our yom tov meals in the sukkah, we are normally exempt if it is particularly uncomfortable to do so (for example, if there is significant rain). On the first two nights of sukkos we are obligated to eat at least a k'zayis of bread in the sukkah, even if it is uncomfortable to do so. Following are guidelines if one comes home sukkos night to significant rain;

First Night

1. One should wait up to one to two hours for the rain to subside.

2.If at any point the rain stops, one should go in the sukkah and make Kiddush and Hamotzi with the bracha of "laishaiv basukah," eating a kezayis (olive size) of bread. If the rain continues after that point, one may continue the meal in the home. The obligation has been fulfilled.

3.If the rain continued over the one to two hour period, one should then go into the sukkah and make Kiddush and hamotzi without the bracha of "laishaiv basukkah," eating a kezayis of bread. The meal should then continue in the home. If at any subsequent point (even after bentsching) the rain subsides, one should go out to the sukkah and eat a kebayah (egg size, or double the kezayis) of bread with the bracha of "laishaiv basukkah."

Second Night

1. It is preferable to wait a small amount of time for the rain to subside. If it does, one should eat the meal, as normal, in the sukkah.

2.If the rain does not subside one should make Kiddush and hamotzi in the home. If at any point the rain subsides, one should go into the sukkah and eat a kezayis of bread with the bracha of "laishaiv basukkah." If the rain does not subside, one should go into the sukkah before the end of the meal and eat a kezayis of bread without the bracha of "laishaiv basukkah." If at a subsequent point (even after bentsching) the rain subsides one should return to the sukkah and eat a kebayah of bread with the bracha of "laishaiv basukkah."