

What Should I Do if Some Chometz Falls Out of the “Sold Cabinet” on Pesach?

Rav Ariel Ovadia

**Question:** On Pesach, my young child opened the door to the cabinet where we keep the *chometz* that was sold to the non-Jew and a bag of pretzels fell out. What should I do with it now?

**Answer:** The Shulchan Aruch clearly says that if it would be your own *chometz* that you discovered on Pesach, you would have to burn it. However, if the *chometz* belongs to a non-Jew, the Poskim note that you are not permitted to burn or damage his possessions. This would seem to mean that you cannot burn this *chometz*. Nevertheless, Rav Shmuel Vosner writes that since the sale was valid, the non-Jew probably is not *makpid* if you burn a small amount of the *chometz*. He almost certainly will not come with a complaint after Pesach if some of the pretzels he bought were destroyed. Accordingly, you can assume that he doesn't care, and the pretzels may be burned.

Rav Yitzchok Zilberstein writes similarly in the name of Rav Elyashiv that since the *mechirah* was done properly, one can assume that non-Jew doesn't care if you burn a bit of the *chometz* and, therefore, you should burn it just as you would if it were your own *chometz*.