



Compare Anything >>

Kosher Salt

vs.

Sea Salt

GO

Halal vs. Kosher



Diffen > Philosophy > Religion > Judaism

Halal and **Kosher** are terms often heard in the context of meat and dairy, and although it's common knowledge that the terms refer to guidelines on what can be consumed and what cannot, few know what either really means, let alone how they differ. "*Is this kosher?*" has become a common expression that has transcended the context of religion and food to the point that it simply means "Is this acceptable?" in a colloquial sense.

Halal and *Kosher* refer to what's permitted by Islamic and Jewish religious laws respectively. *Halal* is an Islamic term that means lawful or permitted. Although *halal* in a broad sense can refer to anything that's permitted by Islam, it's most often used in the context of permissible dietary habits, specifically when it comes to meat consumption. *Kosher* is a similar term used to describe food that is proper or fit for consumption according to *Kashrut*, the Jewish dietary law. This comparison will restrict itself to the context of religious dietary laws.

Comparison chart

Differences —

Similarities —

Halal

Introduction Halal is anything that is permissible according to Islamic law. The term covers and designates not only food and drink as permissible according to Islamic law, but also all matters of daily life.

Guidelines Follows Islamic dietary law

Etymology "Halal" in Arabic means permissible or lawful.

Roots Quran

How to Slaughter Quick and swift at single point on the throat; blood has to be completely drained.

Kosher

Kosher foods are those that conform to the regulations of *kashrut*, the Jewish dietary law.

Follows Jewish dietary law

Derived from the Hebrew word "*Kashrut*," which means proper or fit.

Torah

Quick and swift at single point on the throat; blood has to be completely drained.

	Halal	Kosher
Slaughterer	Animal must be slaughtered by a Muslim.	Animal must be slaughtered by a Jew
Prayer	Requires prayer to Allah before every slaughter.	Does not require prayer before slaughter.
Fruit & Vegetables	Considered Halal	Considered Kosher only if there are no bugs in them.
Meat & Dairy	Can be consumed together	Cannot be consumed together
Alcohol	Prohibited	Allowed. Religious leaders encourage moderation. For wine to be considered kosher, the entire wine-making process must be supervised or handled by Sabbath-observant Jews. Also, all ingredients must be kosher.

Contents: Halal vs Kosher

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Origin

“Halal” is an Arabic word meaning lawful or permissible. Halal food is food permitted for consumption according to the Islamic dietary law as dictated by the Quran. Foods that is not permissible is called *haram* meaning unlawful or prohibited.

The word “Kosher”, meaning proper or fit, originates from the Hebrew word “Kashrut”. Food that conforms to the *Kashrut*, the Jewish Dietary law is said to be kosher and fine for consumption. Kosher laws are derived from the Torah.

These dietary laws don't just restrict themselves to a the specifics of a type of food, but also include how the food is prepared for consumption, and what other food can or cannot be eaten in combination with it.

Meat Guidelines

Permissible Meat

According to Islamic law only certain types of meat are considered to be clean for consumption:

- All Cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Camels
- All types of buck
- Rabbits
- Fish
- Locusts

All animals other than fish and locust are considered halal only when they are slaughtered according to certain guidelines.

Which foods are kosher?

Kosher law disallows eating some animals; and for those that may be eaten, there are rules for how to slaughter and which part of the animal may be eaten. The following are permitted:

- Animals that have hooves split in two **and** chew the cud. e.g., cows, sheep, goats and deer are kosher. Other animals — like rabbits, pigs, dogs, squirrels, cats, bears, horses and camels — are not kosher.
- Birds like chicken, goose, duck, turkey and even pigeons are kosher. Predatory and scavenger birds are not kosher.
- Fish that have fins and scales like tuna, salmon, carp, herring, flounder and pike.

Forbidden Meat

Islamic law prohibits certain animals and meat products to be haram or unlawful:

- Meat not slaughtered according to Islamic Law
- Animals whose blood is not fully drained.
- Pig and other by products.
- Donkey & Mule
- Dead animals
- Carnivorous animals
- Birds of Prey
- Any marine animals except for fish.
- Amphibians
- All Insects except for Locust.
- Animal Blood & Reproductive organs
- Pancreas & Gall Bladder

The following animals and meat products are not considered kosher according to Jewish Dietary law:

- Animals not slaughtered according to Jewish law.
- Animals whose blood is not fully drained.
- Camel
- Pig
- Rabbit/Hare
- Predatory and Scavenger birds
- Shellfish, catfish, sturgeon, swordfish, lobster, shellfish, crabs and all water mammals
- Rodents
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Milk, eggs, fat, organs obtained from prohibited animals.

Slaughter Guidelines

Meat is considered to be halal if it is clean, lawful and slaughtered with certain guidelines:

- The slaughterer should be Muslim.
- The animal should be prayed over before slaughter.
- The knife must be sharp to minimize pain.
- The throat of the animal is cut and the knife may not be lifted before the cut is complete.
- The Trachea, Esophagus and both jugular veins must be severed or at least three of the four arteries must be severed for the meat to be Halal.
- All the blood should be drawn from the animal.

For meat to be kosher, the animal is slaughtered following certain guidelines:

- The "Shochet "or slaughterer should be Jewish with knowledge of Jewish laws.
- The slaughter should be a quick, deep stroke with no nicks.
- All blood should be drawn from the animal.
- The lungs of the animal are inspected to make sure there are no defects to deem the meat Kosher.

Kosher and Halal Certification

Halal certification agencies like the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America ensure that halal certified food is widely available in the United States.

Kosher certified food is widely available with certifications conducted by various agencies spread across the United States.



A collection of halal (left) and kosher (right) certification symbols.

Other Food

According to Islamic law, intoxicating plants, food additives derived from prohibited food, alcohol, and other intoxicants are not halal.

Fruits and vegetables are kosher according to Jewish law as long as they have no bugs. Grape products made by non-Jews are not kosher.

Further religious guidelines for food consumption

According to Islamic dietary law, dairy, yogurt and cheese should be produced from halal certified animals. Gelatin in yogurt and rennet in cheese should also be halal.

Jewish dietary laws state not only meat and dairy cannot be consumed together but they also need to be cooked in separate utensils. There cannot be a common set of utensils to cook meat and dairy.

This video takes you through what it takes to prepare a kosher meal:



References

- Which Animals are Kosher?
- Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA)
- Kashrut: Jewish Dietary Laws - *Judaism 101*
- Kosher Symbols - *KosherQuest*
- Kosher and Halal - *Texas A&M University*
- What is Halal? - *IFANCA*
- Halal Advocates of America
- Halal Food Guidelines - *Department of Halal Certification*
- Yahweh's Restoration Ministry
- Islamic Services of America
- Halal method of calming a lamb before slaughter (YouTube video)
- How to legally carry out religious slaughter (UK government guidance)

Related Comparisons



Kosher Salt vs Sea Salt



Islam vs Judaism



Vegan vs Vegetarian



Paleo vs Vegan



Clarified Butter vs Ghee



Hebrew vs Yiddish

Comments: Halal vs Kosher

14 Comments

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**Fahad Al Daajani**

Halal food has to be from the People of The Book (Christian, Muslim or Jew) and it has to be humane to the animal.

Like · Reply · 36w

**Catryna Jensen-Radsliff White**

Camels are not kosher. You cause confusion when you list them as kosher and then later on say they are not. Other than that a great and helpful article.

Like · Reply · 1y

**Shahid Javed**

Please read again. Camel is not Kosher. Use 'Find' function with CTRL +F.

Like · Reply · 1y

**Catryna Jensen-Radsliff White**

Shahid Javed JP Isn't that what I said? Camels are not Kosher/Camel is not Kosher.

Like · Reply · 1y

**Abdullah Ibn Masud**

Its mentioned that the person carrying out the slaughter must be a Muslim but its not entirely true. The person carrying out the slaughter should be by someone either a Muslim or someone from the 'People of The Books' i.e. Christian or Jew.

Like · Reply · 1y

**Ed Randall**

The important welfare point, whether the animal is stunned before slaughter or not, seems to have been omitted.

Like · Reply · 1y

**Ed Randall**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/halal-and-kosher-slaughter>

Like · Reply · 1y

**Amine Boucherit**

in Islam all animals of the sea are halal

Like · Reply · 2 · 2y · Edited

**Wayne Baumann**

This page leaves out very important requirements for a particular animal to be qualified for Kosher certification. For example, sickly animals will not qualify; the animal must be healthy and free from hormones, genetic manipulations and diseases. Only certain parts of cattle are eatable as Kosher. The dietary laws of Kosher are far superior to all other standards when they are not damaged by the USDA. Also, the Orthodox Union is the most minimal standards in the Jewish Community. The highest standard is when only Sabbath observant Jews are involved with all aspects of preparation. Any actual and strict Sabbath observant Jew can certify as Kosher.

Like · Reply · 2y · Edited

**Jay Hoffman**

it's not JUST Kosher wine- Jews can drink many types of alcohol.

Like · Reply · 2y

**Brian Miller**

Slight error I noticed, Halal slaughter can be made by Jewish or Muslim slaughterer. The requirement is that it is made by "Peoples of the Book" (including Jews and Nazarenes). This is provided all other aspects are followed.

Like · Reply · 5 · 3y

**Darnell Henderson**

How much \$\$\$ does the (U) bring in for the Rabbi's annually?

Like · Reply · 3y

**Yosef Ukwaththa**

Only eggs from kosher fowl are kosher as long as there are no blood spots in them. Dairy can be consumed after a six hour time period of eating meat foods.

Like · Reply · 4y

**Rayan Ansari**

crustaceans are halal but I hate them so...



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