



Chicago Rabbinical Council Guide to Starbucks Beverages

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Over the years, Starbucks shops have evolved from simple coffee shops to stores that serve many kosher and non-kosher items, with the most serious non-kosher items being hot meat sandwiches. The standard daily clean up at Starbucks includes a hot wash of all utensils and some parts of that washing are done without soap. This clean up process challenges the kosher status of the otherwise kosher products and each product must be judged by a competent halachic authority.

When evaluating these issues, Rav Schwartz שליט"א, *Rosh Beis Din* of the cRc, acknowledged that there is basis for being lenient on many of the items being sold at Starbucks stores, but directed the cRc to be true to the mission of a reliable *Kashrus Agency* which only recommends items that are free of all *shailos* and not those which are only acceptable *b'dieved*.

Rav Schwartz noted that this is especially true because there are viable alternatives in every Starbucks store, and even more options in the ones we refer to as "kiosks". A kiosk is defined as one which does not serve hot sandwiches and does not share sinks and other washing/sanitizing methods with nearby non-kosher stores. Kiosks can generally be found in airports, highway rest-stops, supermarkets etc., while "full-service" or "non-kiosks" tend to be free-standing stores or located in certain retail locations such as Target.

To fully explain the details, questions, and *shailos* involved in this issue the cRc printed an analysis of the topic in the Spring 2011 edition of *The Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society*, and that article is available on the cRc website.

The following list is accurate at this time for stores in the United States and Canada, and since the information is subject to change **this list should not be used after April 30, 2020**. [The list is limited to beverages and does not address foods sold in Starbucks (e.g. sandwiches), or toppings and other items added to beverages.] It is also worth noting that many items sold at Starbucks are dairy and *chalav stam*.

Drink	Full-Service Store	Kiosk-Type Store
Almond Milk ^E	✓	✓
Americano	B	✓
Apple juice (steamed)	✗ ^C	✓
Bottled beverages When bearing KD; Dairy	✓	✓
Caramel Macchiato ^K	✗	✗
Clover-brewed coffee	✗ ^J	✓
Coconut Milk ^E	✓	✓
Coffee, brewed	I	✓
Coffee, cold brew (includes Nitro)	A	✓
Cream	D	D
Espresso	B	✓
Flavor syrups	E	E
Frappuccino ^G	✗	✗

Drink	Full-Service Store	Kiosk-Type Store
Hot chocolate	✗ ^{C, D}	D
Iced coffee	✗ ^H	✓
Iced latte	B	✓
Iced tea	✗ ^{E, H}	E
Latte/cappuccino	✗ ^{B, C}	✓
Lemonade ^G	✗	✗
Milk, cold	✓	✓
Milk, steamed	✗ ^C	✓
Smoothie ^G	✗	✗
Soy Milk ^E	✓	✓
Tea (hot)	E	E

Key	
✓	Recommended
✗	Not Recommended

Notes

- ^A Coffee may have been stored/*kovush* in non-kosher pitcher for more than 24 hours; although coffee is permitted *b'dieved*, the cRc recommends purchasing items which are free of *shailos*.
- ^B Ask the barista to do the following when creating the espresso portion of this beverage: remove the "shot-divider" (<https://kshr.us/SDPic>) from the Masterna machine's pour spout, and prepare it in a disposable cup, instead of a reusable shot glass.
- ^C Metal steaming cup may have been washed with other non-kosher items. Beverage is okay if Barista agrees to merely heat it to 115° F or less.
- ^D Cream is purchased regionally and must be checked for kosher certification. Alternatively, ask for hot chocolate without cream.

- ^E Check specific variety for kosher certification.
- ^G Bases are not kosher certified.
- ^H Plastic pitcher used to hot brew the (double-strength) coffee or tea may have been washed with other non-kosher items. Iced-coffee made with espresso shots is acceptable.
- ^I Brew basket may have been washed with non-kosher items. Although the brew basket is only used as a *kli sheini*, the cRc recommends purchasing items which are free of all *shailos*.
- ^J Whisk may have been washed with non-kosher items; beverage is okay if Barista uses disposable stick instead of whisk.
- ^K Caramel sauce is not certified.