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How to Make Homemade Peach Chutney



Making and canning your own peach chutney is quite easy! Here's how to do it, complete instructions in easy steps and completely illustrated. In the winter when you open a jar, the peaches will taste MUCH better than anything you've ever had from a store, and by selecting the right fruit, it will use less sugar than store-bought canned peaches. Don't let the list of ingredients worry you; they're all readily available at any grocery store! Best of all, you can refrigerate it OR can it for later use.

Prepared this way, the jars have a shelf life of about 12 to 18 months, and aside from storing in a cool, dark place, require no special attention.

You may also be interested in [How to make mango salsa](#)

Ingredients

- 20 to 24 peaches, medium to large, slightly under-ripe - just not dead ripe (total weight about 6 lb or 3 kg) - regardless of the raw intact amount, you 'll need about 3.5 to 4 quarts of peeled, cut up peaches.
- 3 cups brown sugar
- 1 large onion (finely chopped) about 3/4 cup
- 5 cups red wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup mustard seed
- 2 Tablespoons ginger or 1.5 teaspoon ginger paste (available from Asian grocery stores)
- 2/3 teaspoon cumin seeds or ground cumin
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon red cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste or puree

Equipment

- Jar grabber (to pick up the hot jars)
- Lid lifter (has a magnet to pick the lids out of the boiling water where you sterilize them. (\$2 at Wal-Mart)
- Jar funnel (\$2 at Wal-Mart)
- At least 1 large pot
- Large spoons and ladles
- Canning jars (grocery stores carry them - about \$8 per dozen jars including the lids and rings)
- 1 Water Bath Canner (a huge pot with a lifting rack to sterilize the jars of peaches after filling You CAN use a large pot instead, but the canners are deeper, and have a rack top make lifting the jars out easier. If you plan on canning every year, they're worth the investment.

Recipe / Directions

Step 1 - Selecting the peaches



Choose ripe, mature fruit of ideal quality for eating fresh or cooking. They should not be mushy, but they also should not be rock hard: just a bit less than dead ripe.

Step 2 - How many peaches and where to get them

You can pick your own, or buy them at the grocery store. But for large quantities, you'll find that Costco, Sam's Club and BJ's seem to have the largest peaches and best prices.



Step 3 - Wash the jars and lids

This is a good time to get the jars ready! The dishwasher is fine for the jars; especially if it has a "sterilize" cycle. Otherwise put the jars in boiling water for 10 minutes. I just put the lids in a small pot of almost boiling water for 5 minutes, and use the magnetic "lid lifter wand" (available from WalMart, Target, and sometimes at grocery stores) to

pull them out.

Step 4 - Wash the peaches!

I'm sure you can figure out how to wash the peaches in plain cold or lukewarm water.



Step 5 - Peeling the Peaches



Peaches and nectarines should be peeled, as their skins can be tough / chewy in jam. Peaches have such thin skins, you really don't need to peel them.

For those you want to peel, here's a great trick that works with many fruits and vegetables with skins (like tomatoes): just dip the fruit in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds.



Remove from the water using a slotted spoon and put into a large bowl or pot of cold water and ice.



The skins will easily slide off now IF the peaches are ripe! The more unripe they are, the longer you'll need to heat them.

<http://www.PickYourOwn.org/peachchutney.htm>

Step 6 - Cut up the peaches

Cut out any brown spots and mushy areas. Cut the peaches in half, or quarters or slices, as you prefer! Remove pits!



Then mash them up a bit:



Step 7 - Prevent the fruit from darkening!



Now, to keep the fruit from turning brown, when you get a bowlful, sprinkle 1/4 cup lemon juice or Fruit-Fresh (which is just citric acid, vitamin C, perfectly natural). Then stir the peaches to make sure all the surfaces have been coated.

Step 8 - Add the spices

Add the sugar, vinegar and spices to the chopped peaches.:

- 3 cups brown sugar
- 1 large onion (finely chopped) about 3/4 cup
- 5 cups red wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup mustard seed
- 2 Tablespoons ginger or 1.5 teaspoon ginger paste (available from Asian grocery stores)
- 2/3 teaspoon cumin seeds or ground cumin, if you can't get the seeds
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon red cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste or puree



Step 9 - Cook the peach chutney

Simmer over low heat for 30 to 90 minutes - the goal is just to thicken it to the consistency you desire! When it cools, it will thicken further, so there's no need to cook it to death!



Step 10 - Fill the jars

Wipe rim and screw threads with a clean damp cloth. Add lid, screw band and tighten firmly and evenly. Do not over tighten.



Step 11 - Process the jars in the water bath



Put the sealed jars in the canner and keep them covered with at least 1 inch of water and boiling. Boil them for at least 20 minutes (and no more than 30 min).

Recommended process time for Peaches in a boiling-water canner.

Process Time at Altitudes of

Style of Pack	Jar Size	Process Time at Altitudes of			
		0 - 1,000 ft	1,001 - 3,000 ft	3,000 - 6,000 ft	Above 6,000 ft
Hot	Pints	15 min	20	20	25
	Quarts	20	25	30	35

Step 12 - Remove and cool

Lift the jars out of the water and let them cool without touching or bumping them in a draft-free place (usually takes overnight), here they won't be bumped.

You can then remove the rings if you like. Once the jars are cool, you can check that they are sealed verifying that the lid has been sucked down. Just press in the center, gently, with your finger. If it pops up and down (often making a popping sound), it is not sealed. If you put the jar in the refrigerator right away, you can still use it. Some people replace the lid and reprocess the jar, that's a bit iffy. If you heat the contents back up, re-jar them (with a new lid) and the full time in the canner, it's usually ok.



Peaches, pears and apples may also show a blue, red or pink color change after canning. This is the result of natural chemical changes that sometimes occur as fruits are heated. It is harmless and won't affect flavor!

Also, avoid storing canned food near heat sources such as a furnace, water heater, hot water or sunny areas. Jars need to be kept cool and dark for longer storage life and to protect against spoilage. Be sure to store in a dry place. If the lid or band rusts, that can cause the seal to break.



Your chutney will probably be darker in color than these and look more like the single jar shown. It depends upon how much spice you use and how long you cook it.

