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How to Make Homemade Gourmet Vanilla Ice cream; Using a Gel-container Ice Cream maker!

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What's better than homemade vanilla ice cream? It is actually quite easy, and costs less than buying ice cream! These directions work with ANY ice cream maker with a gel-freezer container. Electric ice cream makers make it fast and easy! If you have an ice cream maker that requires ice and salt instead of the freezer bowl, [see these instructions instead!](#) If you are looking for an instruction manual for your ice cream maker, we have them, too! [See this page.](#)



Directions for Making Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream

Ingredients

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup fat-free powdered milk
- 8 eggs (yolks only needed)
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream OR half-and-half (to cut down on the fat and cholesterol)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Equipment

- 1 ice cream maker with a freezer gel canister
- 1 large pot
- 1 wooden or plastic spatula



Instructions

Step 1 - Pre-Freeze your ice cream maker's gel container

Before you even think about making ice cream, you better get the gel container in the deep freeze and start it freezing up. Models vary, but generally they recommend the length of time needed to freeze the unit is between 6 hours and 22 hours. It depends on how cold your freezer is. If you have the room, just leave your freezer bowl in the freezer at all times. That way, you can take it out any time for immediate use.

To determine whether the bowl is completely frozen, just shake it. If you don't hear liquid moving, it's frozen! Before freezing the bowl, wash and dry the bowl, then place the freezer bowl in the back of your freezer where it is coldest. (Note: Your freezer should be set to 0F for most foods, including ice cream!)



Crass commercial message: (Well, I warned you!) - I've tried many different types of ice cream makers over the past 25 years, and the Cuisinart ICE-30BC "Pure Indulgence" is the easiest, simplest, and neatest (as in not messy) ice cream / gelato / sorbet / frozen yogurt maker I've used. Just pop the gel bowl in the freezer and, depending upon how cold your freezer is, within 6 to 12 hours, it's ready to make ice cream, without ice, salt or mess. It also has an opening in the top to add flavorings... or to sample as it freezes.. .YUM! Highly recommended! Blake

On the other hand, the Hamilton Beach model is cheaper, but it doesn't get as good reviews and I haven't tried it. And if, for some demented reason, you actually want to hand crank for 25 minutes, the Donvier model offers that, um, "pleasure".

Step 2 - Heat the milk, sugar and powdered milk

In a large pot (4 quarts or larger) with a heavy bottom (for even heat distribution), mix the milk, sugar and powdered milk. Bring the mix to a low simmer over medium heat and stir to dissolve the sugar, then turn the heat down and just keep it warm.



Step 3 - Separate 8 egg yolks

Separate the egg yolks from 8 large eggs. Just crack the eggs against the edge of the bowl and either pour them from one half of the shell to the other, or use your fingers to let the whites drop through while holding the yolk.



Step 4 - Whip the egg yolks until thickened

Put the egg yolks in a medium bowl and whisk until they are thickened (it only takes about 2 minutes. I use a hand mixer on low speed.



Step 5 - Slowly add 1 cup of the hot milk mixture to the egg yolks

While constantly whisking, slowly add 1 cup of the hot milk mixture and whisk until it is blended (a few seconds).



Step 6 - Pour the egg yolk mix into the pot of hot milk

Then pour the egg mixture back into the pot of hot milk and increase heat to medium. Stir the mixture constantly with a wooden or plastic spoon, until the mixture is thickened (like gravy) and registers between 170F and 180F (check with an instant-read thermometer, like the ones with a probe or a candy thermometer).



Step 7 - Add the light cream (or half and half) and vanilla and refrigerate

Stir in whipping cream (or light cream or half-and-half) and vanilla. Cover and pop into the refrigerator for at least 6 hours before continuing on to step 8. Overnight or even 24 to 48 hours is fine.

Intermission - while the mix (called a custard) chills

Take a break... a glass of wine or sherry or just put your feet up while it chills. Best to let it go overnight, but 3 - 4 hours will do.

Step 8 - Fire up the ice cream maker!

Turn the ice cream maker on and let the maker work until it is thickened, about 20 to 25 minutes.

If you want to make other flavors, like chocolate, now is the time to add those flavorings! . I add about 1/2 cup of chocolate syrup - I use the Hersey's sugar free syrup, but both the variety and amount are a matter of personal taste preferences!



You can tell when the ice cream is done, by simply checking the consistency through the opening on the top of the ice cream maker. You will also hear the motor straining, as the ice cream freezes. On some units, the directions with the maker tell you to let it work until the motor stalls and stops.

When it is done, the ice cream should have a soft, creamy texture. If you want firmer, harder ice cream, transfer the ice cream to an airtight container and place it in freezer for about 2 hours. Remove from freezer about 15 minutes before serving.

Step 9 - Enjoy!

Hey, once it reaches the consistency you like, it's time to eat! That's it! You made great homemade ice cream!

