



Mint Chocolate Chip Winter Blasts

By Erin Fletter

Prep Time 5 / Cook Time / Serves 4 - 6

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

measure: to calculate the specific amount of an ingredient required using a measuring tool (like measuring cups or spoons).

blend: to stir together two or more ingredients until just combined; blending is a gentler process than mixing.

tear: to pull or rip apart a food, like basil leaves, into pieces instead of cutting with a knife; cutting breaks cell walls more, so herbs can discolor faster.

Equipment

- ☐ Blender (or pitcher + immersion blender)
- ☐ Liquid measuring cup
- ☐ Measuring spoons
- ☐ Dry measuring cups

Ingredients

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- ☐ 3 C milk ****(for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free milk)****
- ☐ 1 tsp pure vanilla extract ****(for GLUTEN ALLERGY use certified gluten-free pure vanilla extract, not imitation vanilla flavor—check label)****
- ☐ 3 T powdered sugar
- ☐ 1/4 C chocolate chips ****(for CHOCOLATE ALLERGY sub carob chips; for DAIRY/NUT/SOY ALLERGY use Enjoy Life brand chocolate chips)****

- ☐ 2 to 3 frozen bananas
- ☐ 4 to 6 fresh mint leaves
- ☐ 1 C ice
- ☐ Rainbow Glazed Coconut Sprinkles, optional

Food Allergen Substitutions

Mint Chocolate Chip Winter Blasts

Dairy: Substitute dairy-free/nut-free milk. Use Enjoy Life brand chocolate chips.

Gluten/Wheat: Use certified gluten-free pure vanilla extract, not imitation vanilla flavor.

Chocolate: Substitute carob chips for chocolate chips.

Nut/Soy: Use Enjoy Life brand chocolate chips.

Instructions

Mint Chocolate Chip Winter Blasts

measure + add + tear

Measure and add **3 cups milk**, **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**, **3 tablespoons powdered sugar**, **1/4 cup chocolate chips**, and **2 to 3 frozen bananas** to your blender (or a pitcher for use with an immersion blender). Have your kids tear **4 to 6 mint leaves** and add them to the blender.

blend + pour + sprinkle

Blend and once smooth, add **1 cup of ice** before blending some more! Pour, serve, and top with optional **Rainbow Glazed Coconut Sprinkles!**

Featured Ingredient: Mint!

Hi! I'm Mint!

"I'm a green herb with a sweet, cool taste and pleasant aroma. You may have tasted me in gum and toothpaste, but my favorite is mint chocolate chip ice cream!"

History & Etymology

With its fresh scent hard to miss, mint was undoubtedly one of the earliest herbs discovered. It has been found in Egyptian tombs dating back to 1,000 BCE and has been part of Chinese medicine even longer. Ancient Romans and Greeks used mint to flavor cordials and fruit compotes, as well as for baths and

perfumes.

Mexicans call mint "yerba buena" or "good herb."

The United States produces over 70 percent of the world's peppermint and spearmint.

The word "mint" comes from the Old English "minte," from German "minze," from the Greek "minthē."

Anatomy

The mint plant is from the *Mentha* genus. It is an aromatic perennial herb. The plants can grow 4 to 48 inches tall and have runners below and above ground that can spread.

There are 18 to 24 species of mint currently recognized. Other mints are natural hybrids and cultivated hybrids. Some herbs with "mint" names, like cat mint (catnip), are not part of the *Mentha* genus.

Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) is also known as common garden mint. Peppermint (*Mentha × piperita*) is a natural hybrid cross between spearmint and watermint (*Mentha aquatica*).

How to Pick, Buy, & Use

Mint is easy to grow at home or can be purchased at the grocery store. You can keep a bunch of fresh mint in a glass of water for up to two days.

Mint is harvested for its leaves, fresh or dried, for many culinary uses to add a cool, refreshing flavor. Foods that mint is added to include beverages, candies, ice cream, jellies, meat dishes, sauces, syrups, and teas.

Mint essential oil and menthol are added as flavoring to breath fresheners, candy, chocolate, drinks, gums, and toothpaste. It can also be used for aromatherapy.

Mint pairs well with these foods: asparagus, beans, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, peas, potatoes, tomatoes, and yogurt. You can combine mint with these herbs and spices: basil, clove, cumin, dill, ginger, oregano, parsley, and thyme.

Nutrition

Although mint has some health benefits, it is best to eat it in moderation.

Mint has small amounts of vitamins A and C, along with the minerals calcium and iron.

Mint may aid in digestion, but if you have gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), it may aggravate symptoms.