

Homemade Enchilada Sauce

Make authentic homemade enchilada sauce in 20 minutes! Rich, smooth red sauce perfect for enchiladas, tacos, and Mexican dishes. Better than store-bought!

5 min

PREP

15 min

COOK

20 min

TOTAL

4

SERVINGS

Easy

DIFFICULTY

Homemade Enchilada Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp flour
- 3 cup tomato paste
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 4 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp cilantro (coriander)
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 0 pinch salt

Instructions

- 1 Create the Roux**

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat until shimmering, about 1 minute.
- 2** Add 1 cup flour and whisk continuously for 3-5 minutes until the mixture turns light golden brown and smells nutty.
- 3 Add Tomato Base**

Stir in 4 tablespoons tomato paste and cook for 1 minute, mixing well until the paste darkens slightly.
- 4 Build the Sauce**

Gradually whisk in 3 cups chicken broth, adding it slowly while whisking constantly to prevent lumps from forming.
- 5** Add 1 teaspoon chili powder, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 teaspoon ground cumin, and 1 teaspoon oregano, whisking until well combined.
- 6 Simmer and Season**

Bring the sauce to a gentle simmer over medium-low heat and cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until it coats the back of a spoon.
- 7** Stir in 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar and season with salt to taste, starting with a pinch and adding more as needed.
- 8** Remove from heat and let cool slightly before using, or store covered in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

Tips

Toast the flour in oil until it turns light golden brown to create a proper roux - this adds depth of flavor and prevents a raw flour taste in your finished sauce.

Add spices during the last few minutes of cooking to prevent them from becoming bitter. Ground spices can burn easily at high temperatures.

Whisk the broth gradually into the roux to prevent lumps from forming. If lumps do appear, strain the sauce through a fine-mesh sieve.

Use quality chili powder for the best flavor - it's the star ingredient. Consider blending different chili powders for complexity.

The sauce will thicken as it cools, so adjust consistency with additional broth or water as needed when reheating.

For a richer flavor, substitute half the chicken broth with beef broth, or use vegetable broth for a vegetarian version.

Make a double batch and freeze portions in ice cube trays for convenient single-serving portions.

Add a square of dark chocolate or a teaspoon of cocoa powder for authentic mole-inspired depth of flavor.