

Vanilla Ice Cream Philadelphia- Style



• Batch for ice cream maker of 1.5 ltr/qrt (or more) • Preparation time: 5 mins • Total time: 18 hrs •

Ingredients:

- 380 gr whole milk (13.4 oz.; 380 ml; 1⅔ cups.)
- 185 gr sugar (6.5 oz; ¾ cup and 1 Tbs.)
- 635 gr heavy cream 35-36% fat (22.4 oz.; 635 ml; 2¾ cups)
- 2 Tbs. vanilla extract

❶ 1 cup = 235 ml | 1 Tbs. = 15 ml. | 1 tsp. = 5 ml

Instructions

Before starting, make sure that your ice cream maker is ready for churning when needed. This means that if it has a removable freezer bowl, it should be put in the freezer for the whole time indicated by the manufacturer, usually 24 hours.

Step 1 - Make the ice cream mixture

Boil the milk and sugar: in a medium saucepan put the milk and the sugar; warm over medium-high heat, stirring often.

Bring to a boil and let it boil briefly for 10 seconds; remove from the heat and pour the hot milk into a large bowl. Tip: do not let the milk boil before the sugar fully dissolves, or the milk may curdle. Stirring often helps the sugar dissolve efficiently.

Add the heavy cream and stir well.

Step 2 - Chill the ice cream mixture

Cool it down: prepare an ice bath by putting ice cubes and cold water in a large bowl and carefully nest the bowl with the ice cream mixture in it, taking care that no water slips into it. Leave it to cool down for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Chill thoroughly: when you churn it with the ice cream maker, the ice cream mixture should be thoroughly cold. To chill it cover the ice cream and refrigerate for 12 hours and up to 3 days.

Step 3 - Churn the ice cream

Check the ice cream mixture if it is thoroughly chilled, before churning: it should feel fridge-cold to the touch (or if you have an instant-read thermometer, it should read 4°C–8°C / 39°F–46°F).

Prepare the ice cream maker according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(optional, for optimal texture:) Blend the ice cream mixture (with a blender or a stick blender) for 1 minute and immediately pour into ice cream maker with the machine running.

Churn: leave to churn until almost done. Remember, you have to add the vanilla extract before it becomes too thick.

Add the vanilla: add the vanilla extract, when the ice cream is no longer liquid and has turned creamy and fluffy. Leave to churn for 8-10 minutes more, until the vanilla extract has been fully incorporated.

💡 Troubleshooting: if the ice cream becomes too thick and the ice cream maker stops churning before the vanilla extract has been incorporated, stop the machine, remove the lid and give a good stir to the ice cream with a spoon, to help the vanilla extract mix in.

💡 How to know when the ice cream is ready: this ice cream will expand and fluff up during churning. It is ready when it looks smooth and fluffy. This could take anywhere from 30-60 minutes, depending your ice cream maker. To evaluate if it's ready, lift a spoonful; it should be thick enough to stand on the spoon, but still be soft like soft-serve ice cream. If, upon lifting some ice cream with the spoon, a pool immediately starts forming on its edges, you will have to churn it for longer. In any case, if you feel doubts about the consistency, leave it for ten minutes more. But beware: at this stage, do not expect it to be like store-bought carton ice cream; for now it should be more like soft-serve ice cream. It will firm up and become like store-bought ice cream after it sets in the freezer. So, stop the ice cream maker when it is thick and creamy, as described above. If you leave it for much longer, it will start turning grainy.

Step 4 - Put in the freezer to set

Before serving the ice cream or removing it to a container for storage, you have to put it in the freezer to set. Remove the removable freezer bowl (still filled with the ice cream) from the ice cream machine, cover with a lid and put it in the freezer until set.

After this, you can serve it directly from the removable freezer bowl or transfer it to an airtight container for longer storing.

Storage and serving

Storage: in the freezer for one month, covered well to protect it from absorbing the freezer's smells.

Scooping: this ice cream, like all artisanal ice creams, freezes hard in the long term. To soften it to a perfectly scoopable consistency, put it in the refrigerator for one hour.

Notes:

For best results, use a scale and measure the ingredients directly into the utensils, when you need them.

Avoid weighing in one utensil and transferring to another, as this causes a small, but significant loss of quantity, especially in liquids.

If using cups to measure the ingredients, make sure that you thoroughly scrap the cup after every measuring.

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