



Captivating Caramel Cream Cheese Drizzle

By Jacy Shoener

Prep Time 2 / Cook Time / Serves 1 - 2

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

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

drizzle: to trickle a thin stream of a liquid ingredient, like icing or sauce, over food.

whisk: to beat or stir ingredients vigorously with a fork or whisk to mix, blend, or incorporate air.

Equipment

- ☐ Small bowl
- ☐ Measuring spoons
- ☐ Small whisk

Ingredients

Captivating Caramel Cream Cheese Drizzle

- ☐ 1 T cream cheese ****(for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free plain yogurt)****
- ☐ 1 T Creamy Caramel Sauce ****(see caramel sauce recipe for food allergen substitutions)****

Food Allergen Substitutions

Captivating Caramel Cream Cheese Drizzle

Dairy: Substitute dairy-free/nut-free plain yogurt for cream cheese. See Creamy Caramel Sauce recipe for food allergen substitutions

Instructions

Captivating Caramel Cream Cheese Drizzle

measure + whisk + drizzle

Measure and add **1 tablespoon cream cheese** and **1 tablespoon Creamy Caramel Sauce** to a small bowl and whisk well, until there are no lumps. Drizzle over a mug cake, like **Blissful Banana Mug Cake**.

Featured Ingredient: Cream Cheese!

Hi! I'm Cream Cheese!

"I'm a soft, mildly tangy, creamy white cheese. I'm not mature like some cheeses. I'm best fresh and new. I'm similar to mascarpone, an Italian soft cheese. I'm sweetest when I'm in cheesecake or cream cheese frosting!"

Cream cheese is made from milk and cream. According to the United States Food and Drug Administration, cream cheese should have at least 33 percent milk fat and a maximum moisture content of 55 percent. It gets its slight tang from lactic acid. Lactic acid bacteria are added to pasteurized and homogenized milk. As a result, the pH level decreases as acid increases. The pH level of cream cheese should be between 4.4 to 4.9.

Cream cheese was created in 1872 by William Lawrence, a dairy farmer in New York. While making Neufchâtel, a French cheese, he added too much cream and produced a softer, smoother cheese, giving it the generic name "cream cheese." It was renamed and marketed as "Philadelphia Cream Cheese" in 1880 to associate it with the high-quality dairy products from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area.

Commercially-produced cream cheese includes salt, cheese culture, and a stabilizer like guar gum, carob bean gum, or xanthum gum. Cream cheese can also be made at home.

Reduced-fat versions of cream cheese are available, which should have 16.5 to 20 percent milk fat. Whipped cream cheese is a more spreadable cream cheese.

Cream cheese is a popular bagel spread, often called a "schmear," especially in New York City bagel shops. Additional toppings may include lox (brined and smoked salmon) and capers.

Cream cheese may be added to dips, frostings, sauces, mashed potatoes, soup, pastry and pie fillings, omelets, and pasta dishes. It is sometimes blended with added garlic and herbs, like chives or parsley, or flavored with fruit, like strawberries or blueberries.

One ounce or 2 tablespoons of full-fat cream cheese has approximately 99 calories with 10 grams of fat, 6 grams of saturated fat, and 90 milligrams of sodium.

Cream cheese has about 2 grams of protein, 28 milligrams of calcium, and 38 milligrams of potassium. It has 10 percent of the daily value of vitamin A and 5 percent of the daily value of vitamin B2 or riboflavin. Cream cheese is low in lactose (milk sugar) at 2 grams per ounce and may be tolerated better than other dairy products for those with lactose intolerance.