



## Pumpkin Spice Hot Cocoa

By Dylan Sabuco

**Prep Time 5 / Cook Time 5 / 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).

**pour:** to cause liquid, granules, or powder to stream from one container into another.

**simmer:** to cook a food gently, usually in a liquid, until softened.

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

### Equipment

- Pitcher
- Measuring spoons
- Liquid measuring cup
- Whisk
- Small to medium saucepan

### Ingredients

Pumpkin Spice Hot Cocoa

- 3 C milk **\*\***(for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free milk or water)**\*\***
- 1/4 15-oz can pumpkin purée—not pie filling
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 4 T cocoa powder (sweetened), dark or milk chocolate **\*\***(may contain DAIRY—check labels; for CHOCOLATE ALLERGY sub sweetened carob powder)**\*\***

# Food Allergen Substitutions

## Pumpkin Spice Hot Cocoa

**Dairy:** Substitute dairy-free/nut-free milk or water. Sweetened cocoa powder may contain dairy—check labels.

**Chocolate:** Substitute sweetened carob powder for sweetened cocoa powder.

## Instructions

### Pumpkin Spice Hot Cocoa

#### measure + whisk

Measure the following ingredients into a pitcher: **1/4 can pumpkin purée, 1 teaspoon cinnamon,** and **4 tablespoons sweetened cocoa powder.** Whisk the ingredients until the cocoa powder has fully disappeared into the pumpkin.

#### pour + whisk

Slowly pour in **3 cups of milk** as you whisk. Continue whisking and pouring until all the milk is fully incorporated.

#### simmer + serve

Pour this mixture into a small to medium saucepan and steam over low heat for about 5 minutes or until you see steam rising from the cocoa. Once the drink is your desired temperature, pour into mugs and enjoy! This drink tastes great with a dollop of our Spiced Whipped Cream (see recipe) on top, and it's just as good over ice, too!

## Featured Ingredient: Pumpkin!

Hi! I'm Pumpkin!

"I'm orange, round, like to sit on your porch making faces in the Fall, and I'm good to eat! I'm a pumpkin! Of course, not all pumpkins are orange. We can be white, red, yellow, tan, blue, dark green, and even black! We're not always round, either! We might be tall and oblong or short and squat. We love it when families come to the pumpkin patch to pick out their favorite pumpkin to take home!"

### History

The pumpkin is a winter squash that is believed to have originated in Central America. Seeds from pumpkins were found in the highlands of Oaxaca, Mexico, dating back to 7000 to 5500 BCE, about 9,000 years ago!

Now, pumpkins are grown on six continents. The only continent that can't grow pumpkins is Antarctica! Native Americans were eating pumpkins for centuries before European colonists arrived. They ate pumpkin seeds, used them as medicine, and made mats from flattened and dried strips of pumpkins. Archaeologists have found pumpkin residue among the 800-year-old ruins of the Ancestral Pueblo people. A pumpkin is not the same as a Jack-o-Lantern. A pumpkin is only a Jack-o-Lantern once it's carved! Carving pumpkins into Jack-o-Lanterns is a tradition that started hundreds of years ago in Ireland. The Irish used to carve turnips, but when Irish immigrants arrived in North America and found pumpkins aplenty, they began to use those instead. Pumpkins were once endorsed as a remedy for freckles and snake bites. As if we need a cure for freckles! According to Guinness World Records, Stefano Cutrupi of Italy harvested the heaviest pumpkin on September 26, 2021. His humongous pumpkin weighed over 2,702 pounds.

## Anatomy & Etymology

Why are pumpkins orange? Before a pumpkin matures, it's green in color due to the presence of chlorophyll, a green-pigmented nutrient required for the pumpkin to absorb and use sunlight for energy and food. However, as a pumpkin matures, it develops phytonutrients called "carotenoids," which give a pumpkin its bright orange color.

The stem of a pumpkin is often referred to as its "handle."

Thin, hairlike "tendrils" are often attached to the pumpkin's stem. As it grows, the pumpkin's tendrils cling to the vine and are green in color. These tendrils attach to and wind themselves around fences, posts, other plants, and objects on the ground to anchor the vine and protect the plant from the wind.

Leaves grow on the pumpkin's vine and absorb sunlight to provide energy for the plant and its fruit.

We collectively refer to the pumpkin's outer skin and inner fruit as the pumpkin's "shell." Ribs are the indentations around the outside of the pumpkin's shell.

The meat of the pumpkin is called the "pulp," or sometimes affectionately referred to as "pumpkin brains!" Attached to the pulp are lots of pumpkin seeds that can be cleaned, dried, and roasted with salt (delicious!). The inner part of each pumpkin seed contains a nut (technically, the "germ" of the seed), and this is what eventually develops into a new pumpkin.

The word "pumpkin" originated from the Greek word for "large melon," which is "pepon." The French called it "pompon." The English used "pumpion." And, American colonists changed "pumpion" into "pumpkin."

## How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

A pumpkin is used as a vegetable in cooking, but it's actually a fruit! It's a member of the Cucurbita family, which includes squash and cucumbers.

Pumpkin flowers and seeds are edible.

Undoubtedly the most popular recipe that uses pumpkins is pumpkin pie. But pumpkin pulp can be used for everything from baked goods to soups to ice cream, pudding, and even beer!

You can store uncut pumpkins for up to 60 days in a cool, dark place!

## Nutrition

Pumpkins contain potassium, vitamin C, soluble fiber, and beta carotene.

Vitamin C and beta carotene are two powerful antioxidants that help protect cell membranes and the immune system.

Potassium is good for circulation and healthy blood pressure, and it's great for bones. It also helps take blood pumped from hearts through arteries and veins to muscles and organs.

Beta carotene is great for the health of our eyes! The body takes beta carotene and converts it to vitamin A, which our eyes need to stay healthy. When this happens, it signals the immune system to create white blood cells, which help the body fight off infection.

Soluble fiber is so good for our digestive systems! Fiber also helps slow the absorption of blood sugar into our tissues.