

Banana Ice Cream

Ingredients:

Ripe banana(s) and optional mix-in flavors of choice**

Directions:

1. Start with a ripe banana. Make sure the banana is ripe, it should be sweet and soft.
2. Peel the banana and chop. Peel the banana and chop into somewhat small pieces. It doesn't matter what shape or size the pieces are in, as long as they are evenly sized.
3. Put the bananas in an airtight container. Place in a freezer-safe glass bowl or freezer bag.
4. Freeze the banana pieces for at least 2 hours. Freeze until solid, at least 2 hours but ideally overnight.
5. Pulse the frozen banana pieces in a small food processor or powerful blender. Transfer the frozen banana pieces into a small food processor or high-speed blender. (We've found that a small food processor or chopper works best.) Pulse to break up.
6. Keep pulsing — the banana will look crumbly. Keep pulsing. At first the banana pieces will look crumbled or smashed. Scrape down the food processor.
7. Keep blending — the banana will look gooey. Switch to blending. It will look gooey, like banana mush. Scrape down the food processor.
8. Keep blending — the banana will look like oatmeal. Keep blending. It will get smoother but still have chunks of banana in it. Scrape down the food processor.
9. As the last bits of banana smooth out, you'll see the mixture shift from blended banana to creamy, soft-serve ice cream texture. Blend for a few more seconds to aerate the ice cream. (If adding any mix-ins, like peanut butter or chocolate chips, this is the moment to do it.)
10. Transfer to an airtight container and freeze until solid. You can eat the ice cream immediately, but it will be quite soft. You can also transfer it back into the airtight container and freeze it until solid, like traditional ice cream.

Recipe notes:

- Food processor vs. blender: We've found that a food processor works best for this, with enough room for the banana to get fully creamy and a little bit aerated. Some people do make it in a blender, but be careful; make sure your blender is powerful enough to process the frozen bananas.
- Making a bigger batch: Yes, you can make a bigger batch with more than one banana! Just make sure your food processor is big enough (and powerful enough).

***Mix-In Ideas:*

While the one-ingredient aspect of this ice cream is a big part of its charm, we don't think that loses much when it becomes two- or even three- ingredient ice cream. Here are a few favorite mix-ins to make it even more awesome:

- Spoonful of peanut butter
- Drizzle of honey
- Handful of chocolate chips
- A few almonds
- Dollop of Nutella
- Scoop of cookie butter
- Tablespoon of cocoa powder
- Half a teaspoon of cinnamon, cardamom, or ginger