

Apple Crumble (5-6 portions; 1h 15min)

Uses an oven dish 20cm in diameter and 8cm deep, or equivalent. A lid is good for refrigerating remaining portions (if any...).

For the fruit

4 eating apples or 2-3 eating apples and 1 large bramley (400-500g)
200-250g frozen mixed berries or non-frozen rhubarb
1 teaspoon butter/spread
30g muscovado/soft dark brown sugar (+5g if using cooking apples, +15-20g if using rhubarb)
1 heaped teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
15g fresh root ginger (or a heaped tsp powdered) (optional)

Quarter and core the apples and chop into 2cm chunks. Chop the ginger into matchsticks.

On the hob (low heat) stir together the apples, ginger, butter, sugar, and spices for 10-15 min until it starts to soften and reduce, stirring several times so that the bottom layer isn't the only part that cooks.

Drain off the juices and syrup (to stop the crumble getting soggy later). Stir in the rhubarb or frozen berries, and top up the spices if a lot drained out. Empty into the oven dish if using one.

For the crumble

300g plain flour (can also use gluten-free plain flour)
165g butter or spread
80g oats
20g demerara/brown sugar
1 rounded teaspoon cinnamon

Rub the butter and flour together until it's evenly crumbly and there are no butter lumps. Save two handfuls of the largest pieces in a bowl as topping, then stir in the oats, cinnamon, and sugar. Pour evenly over the fruit (don't press it down), and top with the larger crumbles.

For the cooking and topping

10g demerara/brown sugar
Handful of flaked almonds

Sprinkle the sugar over the crumble. Oven for about 45min on 200°C fan.
Sprinkle the almonds over the top 5 minutes from the end.

For reheating

About 1½ min on full power in a 1000w microwave.
Do not include custard – heat separately (preferably on the hob) if required.