How to Marble a Cake

Published September 25, 2011 - Last Updated August 2, 2018



Marble cake is a wonderful old-fashioned baked good, as pretty as it is delicious. The idea of marbling two different colored batters into a cake originated in nineteenth century Germany, then made its way to America with German immigrants before the Civil War. Marble cake has a Jewish history as well... in fact, the first American recipe for marble cake showed up in a Jewish cookbook!

Here is my favorite method for marbling cake. It produces a nice, even marbling result, and it's really simple. It will work with any marble cake

recipe, as long as the recipe has two different batter colors. Give it a try!



For my Marble Cake recipe, click here.

Kosher Key Dairy or Parve

Description

Learn how to marble a cake using two different colored batters, a checkerboard pattern, and a knife.

Ingredients

2 different colored cake batters for marbling

Recipe Notes

You will also need: baking pan for cake batter, large spoon, butter knife.

Instructions

1. Place your colored cake batters near your baking pan. Take 1/3 of the first colored batter and scoop it with a large spoon into your pan in a down-up-down pattern. If you're using a small loaf pan (as shown here), use three large dollops of batter. If you're using a round tube or bundt pan, drop dollops of batter in the same pattern--down, up, down-- all the way around the pan.



2. Take 1/3 of your second colored batter. Scoop a dollop of the batter into each of the empty spaces to create a rough checkerboard pattern on the base of the pan. 1/3 of your total batter should be used at this point.



3. With the second 1/3 of the batter, create a second checkerboard pattern on top of the first. Alternate colors-- meaning, if a light colored square is on the bottom, put a dark colored square on top.



4. Repeat the pattern for a third and final layer with all the remaining batter. You should have three checkerboard layers in your baking pan now.



5. Take your butter knife and swirl it through the batter, making rounded vertical zig-zags from one side of the pan to the other.



6. Wipe the excess batter from the knife. Repeat the swirling pattern in the opposite direction. If you're using a loaf pan, make long horizontal swirls. If you're using a round tube or bundt pan, swirl opposing zigzags all the way around the pan to create a chain shaped swirl.



- 7. Resist the urge to make lots and lots of swirls— the more you swirl, the less the cake will look marbled, and the more it will look like a mishmosh when you slice it.
- 8. Now your cake is marbled and ready to bake! When it's baked, cooled, and sliced, you'll see nice, evenly marbled patterns. Your cake will have its own unique variations. That's what make marble cake fun... you never know exactly what it will look like inside!

 For my marble cake recipe, click here.



Nutrition Facts

How to Marble a Cake

Amount Per Serving

Calories 1902 Calories from Fat 126

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 14g **22%**

Saturated Fat 8g 40%

Sodium 3763mg **157%**

Potassium 242mg 7%

Total Carbohydrates 426g 142%

Dietary Fiber 6g 24%

Sugars 223g

Protein 19g **38%**

Calcium 109.1%

Iron 59.7%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet.

Note: Nutrition facts above refer to yellow cake batter for 1 whole 9-inch cake.

Thanks for stopping by! I am fascinated by the story behind the food – why we eat what we eat, how the foods of different cultures have evolved, and how yesterday's food can inspire us in the kitchen today. Read more...