Simple Substitutes

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Here's a list of substitutes you can use when you find you don't have all the ingredients you need for a recipe.

Print and tape inside a kitchen cupboard door for handy reference!

| Ingredient: | Substitute |
|---|---|
| Allspice | Cinnamon plus a dash of nutmeg or cloves |
| Baking Powder - 1 teaspoon | 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar plus 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate soda |
| Basil | Oregano or thyme |
| Bread Crumbs , fine dry - 1/4 cup | 3/4 cup soft bread crumbs or 1/4 cup cracker crumbs or 1/4 cup cornflake crumbs |
| Butter or Margarine, in baking or cooking - 1 cup | 1 cup lard or shortening or 7/8 cup vegetable oil |
| Buttermilk - 1 cup | 1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar plus enough whole milk to make one cup (let stand 5 minutes before using), or 1 cup whole milk plus 1-3/4 teaspoons cream of tartar, or 1 cup yoghurt |
| Cardamom | Ginger |
| Chocolate, Semi-Sweet - 30g | 30g unsweetened chocolate plus 4 teaspoons sugar |
| Chocolate, Unsweetened - 30g | 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder plus 1 tablespoon shortening or cooking oil |
| Corn Syrup - 1 cup | 1 cup sugar plus 1/4 cup water |
| Cornflour, for thickening - 1 tablespoon | 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour |
| Cream, Light - 1 cup | 1 tablespoon melted butter plus enough whole milk to make one cup |
| Cumin | Chilli powder |
| Egg - 1 whole | 2 egg yolks plus 1 tablespoon water |
| Egg, in baking - 1 | 1 teaspoon cornflour plus 1/4 cup water |
| Flour, Bread - 1 cup | 1 cup of unbleached plain flour plus 1 tablespoon (or 2 tablespoons for higher gluten) gluten |
| Flour, Cake - 1 cup | 1 cup of plain flour plus 2 tablespoons cornflour |
| Flour, for thickening - 1 tablespoon | 1-1/2 teaspoons cornflour, arrowroot, potato flour or rice flour or 2 teaspoons tapioca |
| Flour, Pastry - 1 cup | Use 2/3 cups all-purpose flour plus 1/3 cup cake flour |

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Simple Substitutes Page 2

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| Flour, Self-Raising - 1 cup | 1 cup plain flour plus 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon bicarbonate soda |
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| Garlic -1 clove | 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder |
| Ginger | Allspice, cinnamon, mace, or nutmeg |
| Herb, Fresh - 1 Tablespoon any | 1/3 to 1/2 teaspoon of the same dried herb |
| Honey -1 cup | 1 cup sugar plus 1/4 cup water |
| Italian Seasoning | Combination of basil, oregano, rosemary and ground red pepper |
| Mace | Allspice, cinnamon, ginger, or nutmeg |
| Milk, - 1 cup | 1/2 cup evaporated milk plus 1/2 cup water or 1 cup water plus 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder |
| Molasses - 1 cup | 1 cup honey |
| Mustard, Dry (in mixtures) -1 teaspoon | 1 tablespoon prepared mustard |
| Oil, in baking - 1 cup | 1 cup unsweetened applesauce |
| Onion, 1 small diced | 1 teaspoon onion powder or 1 tablespoon dried minced onion |
| Poultry Seasoning -1 teaspoon | 3/4 teaspoon sage plus a 1/4 teaspoon combination of thyme, marjoram, savory, black pepper, and rosemary |
| Salt, Kosher | A coarse, non-iodized (make sure there are no additives) Table Salt |
| Sour Cream, in baking - 1 cup | 7/8 cup buttermilk or sour milk plus 3 tablespoons butter |
| Sour Cream, in salad dressings or casseroles - 1 cup | 1 cup plain yoghurt or 3/4 cup sour milk plus 1/3 cup butter |
| Sugar, Brown, dark - 1 cup | 1 cup white sugar plus 2 tablespoon molasses |
| Sugar, Brown, light - 1 cup | 1 cup white sugar plus 1 tablespoon molasses |
| Sugar, Icing -1 3/4 cup | 1 cup white sugar + 1 tablespoon cornflour in blender until powdery, stirring often |
| Sugar, Castor | Process regular sugar in a food processor or blender for about a minute |
| Sugar, White - 1 cup | 1 cup packed brown sugar, 2 cups icing sugar or equal amount of raw sugar |
| Tapioca, for thickening - 2 tablespoons | 3 tablespoons plain flour |
| Tomato Juice - 1 cup | 1/2 cup tomato sauce plus 1/2 cup water |
| Tomato Sauce - 2 cups | 3/4 cup tomato paste plus 1 cup water |
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