

Crunchy Granola

Adapted from Serious Eats and Melissa Clark

BAH Note: Don't make my mistake and add the dried fruit to the oats before the granola is cooked. The fruit will end up rock hard and capable of doing some serious dental damage.

- 3 4 cups rolled oats
- 1 1 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon or 5 spice powder
- 1 cup dried cherries
- 1/4 cup crystallized ginger, finely chopped (optional)
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, roughly chopped (optional)

Heat your oven to 300 degrees and line a half sheet pan with parchment.

In a large bowl, stir together the oats and coconut and set aside.

In a medium saucepan, cook the brown sugar, canola oil, maple syrup, spice, and salt over medium-low heat just until the sugar dissolves. Use a spoon and carefully taste the sugar mixture. If you want a saltier granola, add salt 1/4 teaspoon at a time until it is to your taste. Pour the heated sugar mixture over the oats and coconut and stir with a silicone spatula or wooden spoon until the oats and coconut are thoroughly coated in the sugar mixture.

Or, if you prefer, skip this step entirely and just add the canola oil, brown sugar, maple syrup, salt, and spice to the bowl of oats and coconut. Use a spoon, or your hands, to make sure everything is evenly combined. Taste and adjust the salt and spice to your liking.

Spread the oat mixture onto the sheet pan and bake until the granola is golden and crunchy, anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes, stirring every 20 to 30 minutes.

Remove the pan from the oven, transfer the granola to a large bowl, and add in the dried fruit and ginger (if using). Store in an airtight container.

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