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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COUNTIES COOPERATING

# **Using and Storing Peanut Butter**

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Add peanut butter to your shopping list for a nutritious snack that is sure to please. To get the most food value from your peanut butter — store it right.

#### HOW TO STORE PEANUT BUTTER

- 1. Peanut butter can be stored on your cupboard shelf. It does not have to be refrigerated.
- 2. An unopened jar of peanut butter will remain fresh up to 9 months. Once the jar is open, try to use it within 3 months for the best flavor and quality.
- 3. For long-term storage, peanut butter can be frozen. Freeze opened containers for up to 10 months and unopened containers up to one year.



#### HOW TO USE PEANUT BUTTER

Peanut butter can be used in many ways:

- Make "ants on a log" by stuffing celery with peanut butter and sprinkling raisins on top.
- Core an apple and fill the inside with peanut butter.
- Serve peanut butter on whole grain crackers for a nutritious snack.
- · Make a sandwich of peanut butter and
  - sliced bananas
  - apple or pear slices
  - salad dressing or mayonnaise
  - tomato slices
  - lettuce
  - raisins
  - or the old stand by jelly

#### PEANUT BUTTER IS GOOD FOR YOU

Peanut butter is a good source of energy and protein. It makes an excellent snack for growing children. Combine peanut butter with grain foods like breads or crackers to provide high quality, complete protein.

# **Peanut Butter Recipes**

### PEANUT BUTTER FRENCH TOAST

(this recipe makes enough for 6 people)

- % cup peanut butter
- 12 slices bread
- 3 eggs
- % cup milk
- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 1. Spread peanut butter on 6 slices of bread. Top with another slice to make sandwiches.
- 2. Mix eggs and milk.
- 3. Dip sandwiches in egg mixture.
- 4. Melt margarine in heated frypan.
- 5. Cook sandwiches over low heat until browned on one side. Flip over and brown other side.
- 6. Add more margarine to the pan if needed to keep sandwiches from sticking while they cook.

Peanut butter french toast makes a fine breakfast or lunch. Serve with juice or fruit, and milk.

# PEANUT BUTTER DIP FOR VEGETABLES

(this recipe makes 1/2 cup of dip)

- % cup mayonnaise
- % cup peanut butter
- 1. Mix peanut butter and mayonnaise in a bowl.

Serve dip with finger vegetables like celery, carrots, and green pepper sticks.

### PEANUT BUTTER GRANOLA

(this recipe makes about 4 cups)

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1% cups chunky or smooth peanut butter
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 2½ cups rolled oats
- ¼ to ½ cup raisins
- 1. Stir oil into peanut butter.
- Add sugar, then oats. Stir until well mixed.
- 3. Spread mixture onto 2 baking sheets.
- 4. Bake at 300°F. for 15 to 20 minutes until lightly browned. Stir occasionally.
- 5. Remove from oven and add raisins.

Serve peanut butter granola as a snack or cereal with milk and fruit.

### PEANUT BUTTER QUICK BREAD

(this recipe makes one loaf of bread)

- 2 cups flour
- % cup nonfat dry milk
- % cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- % cup peanut butter
- 1 cup water
- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Mix flour, nonfat dry milk, sugar, and baking powder together in a bowl.
- 3. Blend in peanut butter with a fork.
- 4. Stir in water.
- 5. Spoon bread mixture into a greased loaf pan.
- 6. Bake bread for 45 to 50 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Try warm peanut butter quick bread topped with jelly for breakfast or as a tasty dessert for lunch or dinner.