

# vegan strawberry shortcake cake

**Vegan strawberry shortcake cake** is a delightful twist on the classic dessert that many people adore. This plant-based version retains the essence of the traditional strawberry shortcake while being completely free of animal products. With its fluffy layers, sweet strawberries, and light whipped cream, vegan strawberry shortcake cake is perfect for celebrations, summer picnics, or simply satisfying your sweet tooth. In this article, we will explore the history of strawberry shortcake, discuss the benefits of going vegan, and provide a detailed recipe to help you create this delicious dessert at home.

## History of Strawberry Shortcake

Strawberry shortcake has a rich history that dates back to the 16th century. Originally, it was made using a simple biscuit-like cake layered with fresh strawberries and whipped cream. Over the years, variations have emerged, particularly in the United States, where it became popular during the summer months when strawberries are in season.

The traditional recipe typically includes ingredients like flour, sugar, butter, and cream. However, with the rise of veganism and plant-based diets, many have sought to recreate this nostalgic dessert without the use of animal products. This has led to the creation of the vegan strawberry shortcake cake, which is just as delicious as its non-vegan counterpart.

## Benefits of Going Vegan

Adopting a vegan lifestyle has numerous benefits, both for individuals and the environment. Here are some key advantages:

- **Health Benefits:** A well-planned vegan diet can provide numerous health benefits, including lower cholesterol levels, improved heart health, and reduced risk of chronic diseases.
- **Environmental Impact:** Veganism significantly reduces one's carbon footprint. Animal agriculture is responsible for a large portion of greenhouse gas emissions, and by choosing plant-based options, you contribute to a more sustainable environment.
- **Animal Welfare:** Choosing vegan products helps reduce the demand for animal exploitation and suffering, promoting a more compassionate way of living.
- **Variety of Flavors:** Vegan cooking encourages creativity in the kitchen, often leading to the discovery of new flavors and ingredients that you might not have tried otherwise.

With these benefits in mind, making a vegan strawberry shortcake cake not only satisfies your sweet cravings but also aligns with a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.

# Ingredients for Vegan Strawberry Shortcake Cake

To make a delicious vegan strawberry shortcake cake, you'll need the following ingredients:

## Cake Layers

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar (preferably organic)
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup coconut oil (melted) or vegetable oil
- 1 cup almond milk (or any non-dairy milk)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar

## Strawberry Filling

- 2 cups fresh strawberries (sliced)
- 1/4 cup sugar (or to taste)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

## Vegan Whipped Cream

- 1 can (13.5 oz) full-fat coconut milk (chilled overnight)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-2 tablespoons powdered sugar (to taste)

# Step-by-Step Recipe for Vegan Strawberry Shortcake Cake

Creating your vegan strawberry shortcake cake is easier than you might think! Follow these simple steps to whip up this delightful dessert:

## 1. Prepare the Strawberries

- In a medium bowl, combine the sliced strawberries, sugar, and lemon juice.
- Toss gently to coat the strawberries and allow them to sit for about 30 minutes. This will help release their natural juices, creating a delicious filling for your cake.

## 2. Make the Cake Layers

- Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans.
- In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.

- In another bowl, mix the melted coconut oil, almond milk, vanilla extract, and apple cider vinegar.
- Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. Be careful not to overmix; it's okay if there are a few lumps.
- Divide the batter evenly between the prepared cake pans and smooth the tops with a spatula.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let the cakes cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then transfer them to a wire rack to cool completely.

### **3. Prepare the Vegan Whipped Cream**

- Once the coconut milk has chilled, carefully open the can and scoop out the solid cream into a mixing bowl, leaving the liquid behind.
- Add the vanilla extract and powdered sugar to the bowl. Using a hand mixer, beat the mixture until it becomes fluffy and forms stiff peaks.

### **4. Assemble the Cake**

- Once the cake layers are completely cool, place one layer on a serving plate.
- Spoon half of the strawberry mixture over the first layer, spreading it evenly.
- Add a layer of vegan whipped cream on top of the strawberries.
- Place the second cake layer on top and repeat the process with the remaining strawberries and whipped cream.
- Optionally, you can decorate the top with additional strawberries and a dollop of whipped cream.

## **Tips for the Perfect Vegan Strawberry Shortcake Cake**

- Choose Ripe Strawberries: The quality of the strawberries makes a significant difference in flavor. Opt for ripe, fresh strawberries for the best results.
- Experiment with Flavors: Feel free to add a hint of almond extract or a splash of orange juice to the cake batter for an extra layer of flavor.
- Make Ahead: You can prepare the cake layers a day in advance and store them in the refrigerator. Just assemble the cake on the day you plan to serve it.
- Store Properly: Leftovers can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to three days. Note that the cake may become slightly soggy as the strawberries release more juice.

## **Conclusion**

Vegan strawberry shortcake cake is a scrumptious and compassionate alternative to the classic dessert that everyone can enjoy. Whether you are a long-time vegan or just looking to try something new, this cake is sure to impress your friends and family. By incorporating fresh strawberries, light whipped cream, and fluffy cake layers, you can create a dessert that is not only visually appealing but also bursting with flavor. So gather your ingredients and get ready to indulge in a guilt-free treat that celebrates the deliciousness of plant-based living!

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the key ingredients for a vegan strawberry shortcake cake?**

Key ingredients typically include flour, sugar, baking powder, almond milk or coconut milk, coconut oil or vegan butter, fresh strawberries, and a vegan whipped cream substitute.

### **How can I make the cake gluten-free while keeping it vegan?**

You can substitute regular flour with a gluten-free flour blend, such as almond flour or coconut flour, and ensure that all other ingredients are certified gluten-free.

### **What is the best way to prepare strawberries for a vegan strawberry shortcake cake?**

Wash and hull the strawberries, then slice them and toss them with a little sugar to macerate. This will enhance their natural sweetness and create a juicy topping.

### **Can I use a store-bought vegan whipped cream for my cake?**

Yes, store-bought vegan whipped cream is a convenient option and works well for topping your vegan strawberry shortcake cake.

### **How long does a vegan strawberry shortcake cake last in the fridge?**

The cake can last about 3 to 5 days in the refrigerator if stored in an airtight container, but it's best enjoyed fresh.

### **What is a good substitute for sugar in a vegan strawberry shortcake cake?**

You can use natural sweeteners like maple syrup, agave nectar, or coconut sugar as alternatives to refined sugar.

### **Is it possible to make a no-bake vegan strawberry shortcake cake?**

Yes, you can create a no-bake version by using a crust made from crushed nuts and dates, layering with a vegan cheesecake filling, and topping with fresh strawberries.

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