



Cooking Together with Lily

Summer Bread Salad



Ingredients

- 4 cups stale bread, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a loaf
(any kind you like, crunchy or crusty bread works great here)
- 2 cups of tomatoes
- 2 cups summer fruits or vegetables of choice (or use 2 more cups of tomatoes)
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, loosely packed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup balsamic vinegar (or substitute another type of vinegar or lemon juice)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Cut the tomatoes and bread into 1-inch cubes. Slice or chop your summer fruits and vegetables of choice (if using) into thin slices or 1-inch cubes. Thinly slice or rip the basil leaves into pieces.
2. In a small bowl or jar with a tight-fitted lid add the olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt, and pepper. Mix together well, or put the lid on the jar and shake.
3. Put the bread, tomatoes, any other fruits and vegetables you are using, and the basil in a large bowl. Pour the vinaigrette over the top and mix everything together.
4. Allow the salad to sit for at least 30 minutes to let all of the flavors soak into the bread. After 30 minutes, taste your salad and adjust the seasoning as needed.
5. Serve as a refreshing side or main dish for summer dinners.

Mix It Up

Kick this basic recipe up a notch by adding in your favorite summer fruits and vegetables. Try cucumbers, red onions, bell peppers, corn, or peaches and nectarines. Make the salad more filling by adding in chickpeas, fresh mozzarella, or other cheeses or proteins of your choice, the possibilities are endless!

Our Favorite Combos:

- 4 cups bread, 4 cups tomatoes, 1 cup basil.
- 4 cups bread, 2 cups tomatoes, 1 cup sliced peaches or nectarines, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced cucumbers, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced red onions, 1 cup basil.
- 4 cups bread; 3 cups tomatoes; 1 cup fresh mozzarella, cut into 1-inch cubes (or use mini mozzarella balls), 1 cup basil.
- 4 cups bread; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups tomatoes; 1 cup fresh corn, cut off the cob; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced red onions; 1 cup basil.
- 4 cups bread; 2 cups tomatoes; 1 cup bell peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces, 1 cup sliced cucumbers; 1 cup chickpeas, drained and rinsed; 1 cup basil.