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How to Make Homemade Canned Pickled Carrots

Here's how to can pickled carrots! The directions are complete with instructions in easy steps and completely illustrated. Prepared this way, the jars have a shelf life of about 12 months, and aside from storing in a cool, dark place, require no special attention.

Directions for Making Canned Pickled Carrots

Ingredients and Equipment

- 2³/₄ pounds peeled carrots (about 3¹/₂ pounds as purchased)
- 5¹/₂ cups white distilled vinegar (5% acidity) (white apple cider vinegar is fine)
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups sugar or Splenda
- 2 teaspoons canning salt
- 8 teaspoons mustard seed
- 4 teaspoons celery seed
- Jar grabber (to pick up the hot jars)
- Jar funnel (\$2 at mall kitchen stores and local "big box" stores, but it's usually cheaper online from our affiliates)
- At least 1 large pot
- Large spoons and ladles
- Ball jars (Publix, Kroger, other grocery stores and some "big box" stores carry them - about \$7 per dozen pint jars including the lids and rings)
- 1 [Water Bath Canner](#) OR a pressure Canner (a large pressure pot with a lifting rack to sterilize the jars after filling about \$75 to \$200 at mall kitchen stores and "big box" stores, but it is cheaper online; [see this page for more about pressure canners](#)).

Recipe and Directions

Yield: About 4 pint jars

Step 1 - Selecting the carrots

The most important step! You need carrots that are FRESH and crisp. Limp, old carrots will make nasty tasting canned carrots. Guests will probably throw them at you.. Select firm, crisp carrots. Remove and discard any soft, diseased, spotted and chewed up carrots.



How many carrots and where to get them

You can grow your own, pick your own, or buy them at the grocery store. About 7 pounds of 2- to 2½-inch diameter carrots makes about 8 pints of pickled carrots. I wouldn't use canned carrots; what's the point: Most of the flavor is gone from them, and you can always get fresh carrots.

Step 2 - Prepare the jars and canner



Wash the jars and lids

This is a good time to get the jars ready! The dishwasher is fine for the jars; especially if it has a "sterilize" cycle. Otherwise put the jars in boiling water for 10 minutes. I just put the lids in a small pot of almost boiling water for 5 minutes, and use the magnetic "lid lifter wand" (available from target, other big box stores, and often grocery stores; and available online - see this page) to pull them out.

Get the canner heating up



Rinse out your canner, put the rack in the bottom, and fill it with hot tap water. (Of course, follow the instruction that came with the canner, if they are different). Put it on the stove over low heat just to get it heating up for later on.

Step 3 -Wash the carrots!



I'm sure you can figure out how to scrub the carrots in plain cold or lukewarm water using your hands or a vegetable brush.



Step 4 - Peel the carrots and cut into smaller pieces

Peel and slice into rounds cuts that are 1/2-inch thick (approximately).



Step 5 - Wash again

Rinse the carrots again in cold water

Step 6 - Make the Pickling Solution

Combine the vinegar, salt, sugar (or Splenda if you need a no-sugar version) and fresh water in a large pot (8-quart or larger).



Step 7 - Heat the pickling solution

Bring the solution to a boil. Then keep it boiling gently for 3 minutes.

Step 8a - Add the carrots and simmer

Add the carrots and bring it back to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and heat until the carrots are half-cooked (about 10 minutes).



Step 8b - Prepare the jars

While the carrots are cooking, put 2 teaspoons mustard seed and 1 teaspoon celery seed in the bottom of each clean, hot pint jar.

Step 9 - Packing the carrots in the canning jars

This is called "hot packing"! Fill the jars with the hot carrots and onions, leaving 1-inch headspace. Pack the jars fairly tightly, but be sure to leave at least ½ inch, preferably 1-inch of space at the TOP of the jar. That is called "headspace" and is needed for expansion during heating in the water bath.



Step 10 - Pour boiling cooking liquid into each packed jar

Use a ladle or pyrex measuring cup to carefully fill each packed jar with the hot vinegar solution (pickling liquid), again allowing ½ to 1-inch headspace. The carrots should be covered and there should still be 1 inch of airspace left in the top of each jar. Be careful not to burn yourself, (or anyone else - children should be kept back during this step!)



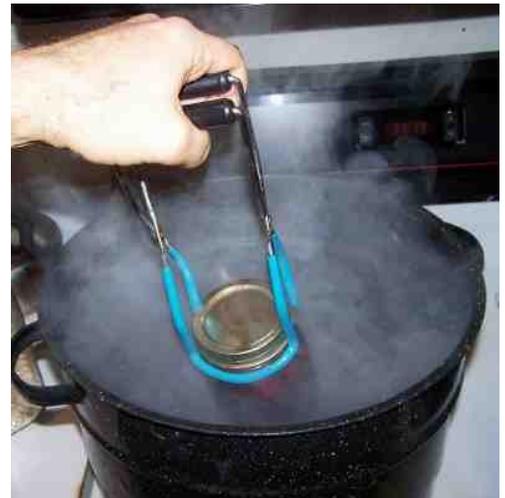
Remove air bubbles (by sliding a dull knife inside the jars and/or gently jostling them) and adjust headspace if needed.

Step 11 - Put the lids and rings on

Wipe rims of jars with a dampened, clean paper towel and put the lids on each jar. Seal them by putting a ring on and screwing it down snugly (but not with all your might, just "snug").

Step 12 - Put the jars in the canner and the lid on the canner

Using the jar tongs, put the jars on the rack in the canner. Make sure the tops of the jars are covered by at least 1 inch of water.



Step 13 - Process for 15 minutes*

The chart below will help you determine the right processing time and pressure, if you have a different type of canner, or are above sea level. For most people, using a plain open water bath canner, the time will be 15 minutes. You can use either a plain water bath canner OR a pressure canner, since the vinegar adds so much acidity (if you can vegetables other than tomatoes without adding vinegar, you must use a pressure canner).

*Recommended Processing times For Pickled Carrots in A Boiling Water (Open) Bath Canner				
		PROCESS TIMES (MIN) AT ALTITUDES OF:		
Style of Pack	Jar Size	0-1000 ft.	1001-6000 ft.	Above 6000 ft.
Hot	Pints or Quarts	15	20	25

Step 14 - Remove the jars

Lift the jars out of the water and let them cool on a wooden cutting board or a towel, without touching or bumping them in a draft-free place (usually takes overnight), here they won't be bumped. You can then remove the rings if you like. Once the jars are cool, you can check that they are sealed verifying that the lid has been sucked down. Just press in the center, gently, with your finger. If it pops up and down (often making a popping sound), it is not sealed. If you put the jar in the refrigerator right away, you can still use it. Some people replace the lid and reprocess the jar, then that's a bit iffy. If you heat the contents back up, re-jar them (with a new lid) and the full time in the canner, it's usually ok.



You're done! Now, just let the carrots sit in processed jars for 3 to 5 days before consuming for the flavor to develop!

Other Equipment:

From left to right:

1. Jar lifting tongs
helpful to
pick up hot jars
2. Lid lifter
- to remove
lids from the pot
of hot
water
3. Lid
- disposable
- you may only
use them once
4. Ring
- holds the lids on the jar until after
the jars cool - then you don't need them
5. Canning jar funnel
- to fill the jars

