

0.1 Fresh Pasta

- ↔ 1 *Egg* One egg provides roughly a portion of pasta for one person, so multiply this
↔ 100 g *Flour* recipe by the number of people you want to feed.
↔ ~5 g *Salt* Pour the flour and salt into a large bowl, and make a well in the middle with
a spoon. Break and gently beat the egg, before pouring it into the well.
Stir the egg in the well, slowly incorporating flour from the walls of the well,
until a paste starts to form.
Mix the paste around the bowl, ensuring all the flour is consumed.
The paste should be like a malleable ball of clay. If the paste seems exces-
sively sticky, mix in some extra flour, and if it seems a little dry, mix in some
extra water.
Make your hands wet under a tap, and gently touch the ball of paste all
over. This ensures that the surface does not dry out.
Leave the ball of paste to rest in its bowl, covered by a tea towel, for around
an hour. This is to allow the flour to fully absorb the water, and for the
gluten in the pasta to relax. After resting, the pasta should feel softer, less
“tense”, and more malleable.
- ↔ *Extra flour for dusting* Dust some flour on a clean work surface, and gently knead the pasta a little.
Use a rolling pin to flatten out the pasta. If the pasta begins to develop
what look like stretch marks, or to feel “tense” or hard, stop rolling for a
couple of minutes to allow the pasta to rest. If the stretch marks become a
problem, fold the pasta over onto itself and re-roll a few times.
Once the pasta reaches your desired thickness, you can use a knife to cut it
into your desired shape.
- ↔ *Salt* Heavily salt a pan of water on a rolling boil. Cook the pasta in the pan
↔ *Boiling Water* for around 3 minutes. The exact amount of time will depend on the final
thickness of the pasta, so try eating a piece before the pasta is done, to
determine whether it is cooked through.
- Modification* *A pasta machine makes it much easier to roll out pasta into thin sheets, and
evenly cut it into various shapes. It’s not necessary to make simple pasta
shapes like tagliatelle though.*
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Pasta is an essential component of many Italian dishes, and making your own, while not often mandatory, adds a fun new dimension to experiment with.

A pasta machine can be extremely useful when making pasta, but it is not mandatory.