### Guacamole with White Beans



### TIPS:

1. Adding **canned white beans** makes for a flavorand fiber-enriched quick and easy "chop & mash" guacamole.

2. About canned beans and salt: As shown in the nutrition label comparison photos below, there's quite a difference in salt/sodium content between regular (left label) and "sodium reduced" white

beans (right label). I actually wasn't very comfortable using even the sodium reduced canned variety until I realized I could use them very easily by NOT adding any additional salt to the recipe. (You'll see that salt is not mentioned in the ingredients list below, though there certainly is an acceptable level of salt flavor included in this recipe.)



3. Determining avocado ripeness and how to ripen an avocado: Avocados usually come to market underripe and firm. Avocados are ripe when you can press on the avocado skin with your thumb using a little more pressure than you'd use to grip a pencil firmly (left photo) and leave an indent as shown in circled area in the picture on the right.



To ripen firm avocados as quickly as possible at home, place them in a paper bag (NOT plastic bag plastic bags don't allow for the air exchange needed for ripening; paper bags do), close the bag loosely, and store them out of direct sunlight at room temperature for 1-2 days - or longer for extremely firm, unripe avocados.



#### **Preparation Time:** 7-10 minutes

Ingredients (for 3-4)

2 Ripe Avocados
1/2 Cup (4 ounces) Canned White Beans
(preferably, sodium reduced)
2 Garlic Cloves
Handful of Fresh Cilantro
1/2 Lime
Ground Black Pepper



#### Equipment

Strainer Large Bowl Measuring Cup Can Opener (if needed) Cutting Board Wide-Bladed Sharp (Chef's) Knife Fork

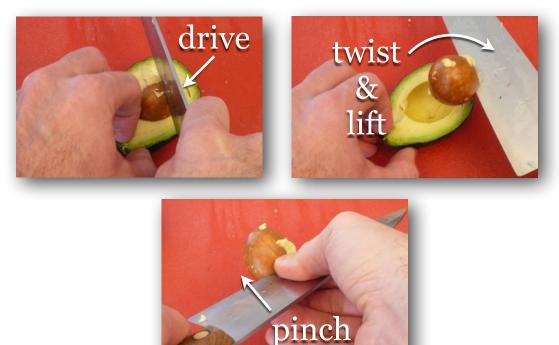


1. Cut two ripe **avocados** in half lengthwise around their **seed**, and twist the two **avocado halves** 

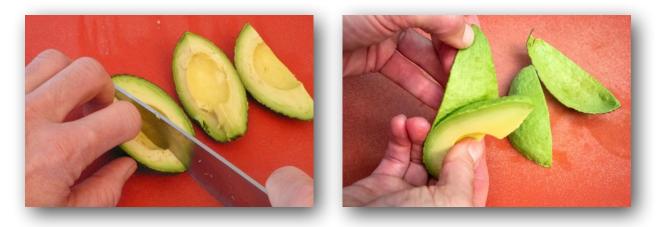
#### apart.



Remove the **seed** by holding the **avocado half** with the **seed** still attached seed side up on the cutting board - making sure your fingers are not in the intended knife path - and driving the the long, sharp edge of the knife blade into the **seed**. Twist and lift the **seed** from the **avocado half**. Remove the **seed** from the knife by pinching down on the **seed** from the back, dull side of the knife blade as shown below.



Cut each **avocado half** in half again lengthwise into quarters and peel off the **skin**.



2. Open a **can of white beans**, and pour about as many **beans** into a strainer as shown here.

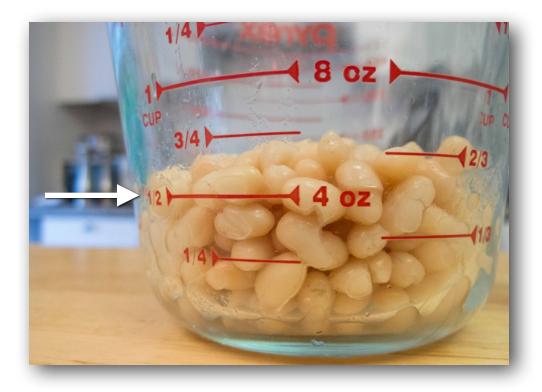


Rinse the **beans** with cold tap water and pour them into a measuring cup so that you have...





# ...about 1/2 cup (4 ounces) of beans (no problem if you use more beans as shown below).



3. Rinse **a handful of fresh cilantro** with cold water and twist and tear the **stem bottoms** from their **leafy cilantro tops**.



Hold the **cilantro** to the cutting board with curled fingers and chop it into smaller pieces about as shown in the picture below right.

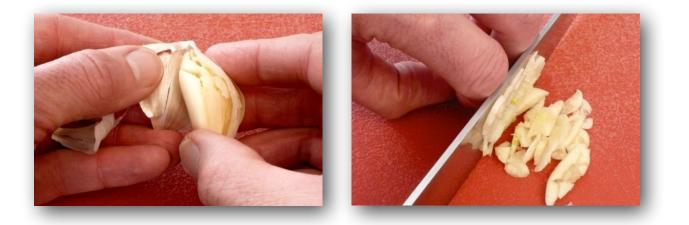


4. Put **2 garlic cloves** on the cutting board. Cover them, one **garlic clove** a time, with the flat side of a wide bladed (chef's) knife. Press on the top flat side of the knife with the heel of your hand until you hear and feel the **garlic skins** pop open.



Peel off the garlic skin. Then hold the garlic cloves securely to the cutting board with

curled fingers, and let the side of the knife blade touch and glide along your curled knuckles as you cut the **garlic** into thin slices about 1/8 inch (3 mm) wide.



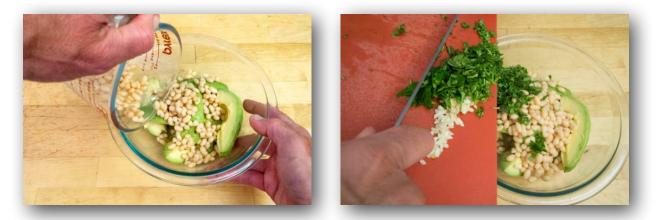
Finish by chopping the **garlic slices** into smaller pieces about as shown below.



### 5. Cut a lime in half.



6. Put the **cut avocado quarters** and **beans** in a bowl and add the **chopped cilantro** and **garlic**.



Squeeze on the juice of 1/2 lime and add a good crunch of black pepper.





## 7. Mash with a fork until the guacamole with white beans is still chunky and looks about like...



### ...this.



## 8. Transfer the finished guacamole with white beans to another bowl (if necessary) and serve.



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