Chapter 5



An Easy Lunch (How to Make Smash Burgers)

Smash burgers are all the rage at the campground, and thankfully, they're super easy to make. There's a little technique involved and it helps to have a burger press or a really firm spatula—but besides that, all you need is some good ground beef and a ripping hot griddle.

Smash burgers may be easy to make, but the end result is fundamentally different from a grilled burger. When you smash (aka press) uncooked ground beef against a hot griddle, a Maillard reaction occurs—this browns the beef and gives it a delicious flavor.

Here are a few basic tips for making perfect smash burgers, followed by a list of ingredients used for the burgers and burger sauce. Remember to watch the corresponding video for this chapter to see exactly how it's done.

- 1. Buy high-quality 80/20 ground beef from a local butcher (if possible).
- 2. Form your burgers into little balls and prep them with salt and pepper or a seasoning of your choice.
- 3. Get your griddle ripping hot and spray it with griddle spray or canola oil.
- 4. Place the burgers on the hottest spots on your griddle and smash them for 10 seconds.
- 5. After a minute or so, flip them over and let them finish cooking.
- 6. Do not smash the second side of the burger or you will drain the juices out.
- 7. Add cheese, fried onions, or toppings of your choice.
- 8. Use a basting dome or place the griddle hood down to melt the cheese.
- 9. Plate and enjoy!

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Ingredients Used in This Video

- 80/20 ground beef
- American cheese
- Blackstone Pub Burger seasoning or salt and pepper
- Thinly sliced onions

Ingredients for a Quick and Easy Burger Sauce (Mix to Taste)

- Ranch dressing
- Ketchup
- Sriracha

Vegan Alternative

Replace ground beef with Impossible Beef.

Additional Resources for Making Great Smash Burgers

Check out <u>this video</u> by Chef Nathan Lippy for three delicious smash burger recipes that are each paired with a unique and incredible sauce.

<u>This short video</u>, also by Chef Nathan Lippy, will help you crank your smash burger skills up a notch.