

POPCORN BALLS (COLORED OR NOT)

F MEDIUM

Last Modified: NEVER

PREP: 5 Min
COOK: 15 Min
STOVETOP

MOM K'S - SWEETS

MAKES 3 QUARTS

QUA	MEASURE	INGREDIENT	PROCESS
1	Cup	Granulated Sugar	Dissolved
1/3	Cup	Light Corn Syrup (Karo)	
1/3	Cup	Warm Water	250 Degrees
1/4	Cup	Salted Butter	
3/4	Tsp	Sea Salt	Dissolved
3/4	Tsp	Warm Vanilla	250 Degrees
3	Quarts	Fresh Hot Popcorn	Unsalted
OPTIONAL			
Several	Drops	Food Coloring	To Visual Taste

PREPARATION

FACTOID	Sticky, gooey & extremely sweet. Make different batches of Syrup in all of the colors in the Rainbow. NO Food Coloring is kind of BLAH!
TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Small Mixing Bowl 2) Cookie Cooling Rack 3) Medium Saucepan 4) Candy Thermometer 5) Stiff Silicone Spatula
CAUTION	Get all of the Ingredients together BEFORE even thinking about beginning. Do NOT use Corn Oil to pop the Popcorn. Peanut Oil is OK, but Popcorn Oil is by far best.
PREP	DISH 1) Measure the Vanilla and Water into a small mixing bowl, Microwave until about 250 Degrees F. and set it aside.
NOTE	SOFT BALL CANDY STAGE: 235 Degrees F. on a Candy Thermometer. TEST: Drop a very small amount into a cup of very cold water. It should form itself into a ball that you can easily squash flat & doesn't fall apart between your fingers.
1	In a medium saucepan over medium high heat, combine the Vanilla & Water Mixture, Sugar, Corn Syrup, Butter and Sea Salt. Stir to mix well. Bring the mixture to a boil, attach a candy thermometer and cook (NOT stirring) until the Syrup Reaches the Soft Ball Candy Stage (See Note above).
2	MEANWHILE: Pop the Popcorn according to directions
3	Remove from the heat. If using, quickly stir in drops of the Food Coloring you like until it reaches the desired color.
4	Slowly pour the warm Syrup over the Popcorn while stirring with a buttered Silicone Spatula to thoroughly coat all of the kernels. Discard any leftover Syrup & fill the pan with HOT tap water QUICKLY.
SERVE	FOR POPCORN BALLS: Coat your hands with softened Butter, grab a handful of Popcorn and pack it lightly into a snowball of any size you want. Place the Balls on a wire rack to cool. FOR POPCORN: Enjoy while hot with plenty of napkins available.