

Red Lentil Chicken Soup

Recipe Source: Chicken and Egg by Janice Cole

Ingredients:

6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs (about 1 1/4 lbs), cut into 1-inch pieces

- 2 Tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp ground allspice
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 6 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1 ¹/₄ cup red lentils (can substitute brown lentils)
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Steps:

- Toss the chicken in a medium bowl with the cumin, cinnamon, and allspice until coated. Add the olive oil to a large pot and heat over medium-high heat. Sauté the chicken for 3-5 minutes or until lightly browned on all sides.
- Add the onions and celery and cook for 3 minutes or until slightly softened.
- Stir in the garlic and cook for 30 seconds, or until fragrant, being careful not to let it burn.
- Pour in the chicken broth and stir in the tomatoes, lentils, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat, simmering partially covered for 30-45 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the lentils are tender and the soup is slightly thickened. If mixture starts to look a little dry, or for a thinner soup, add more chicken broth or water.
- Stir in the cilantro before serving.

Tips from the Test Kitchen: You can leave out the chicken for a vegetarian dish. Just skip step 1 and add the spices to the vegetable mixture when you sauté them in the oil in step 2. Sliced carrots along with the celery and onion were a great addition, as were canned chickpeas (rinsed and drained) added with the lentils.



<u>Nutritional Facts (per serving)</u>: Calories: 394, Carbohydrates: 33 grams, Protein: 43 grams, Total Fat: 10 grams, Saturated Fat: 2 grams, Cholesterol: 140 mg, Sodium: 1478 mg, Fiber: 8 grams, Total Sugars: 5 grams.