

Decarboxylation Guide

Decarboxylation is the process of heating cannabis to activate the compounds, specifically converting THCA (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) into THC, the psychoactive compound. Here's a step-by-step guide:

Materials Needed:

- Cannabis flower
- Baking sheet
- Aluminum foil or parchment paper
- Oven
- Grinder (optional)

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Preheat the Oven:

Set the oven to 220-240°F (105-115°C). This temperature range is ideal to activate THC without burning off cannabinoids or terpenes.

2. Prepare the Cannabis:

Break the cannabis into small, even-sized pieces. A grinder can be used, but avoid making it too fine as it may burn more easily.

3. Line the Baking Sheet:

Cover the baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil to prevent sticking and make cleanup easier.

4. Spread the Cannabis:

Distribute the cannabis evenly on the baking sheet. Make sure the pieces don't overlap to ensure even heating.

5. Bake the Cannabis:

Place the baking sheet in the oven and bake for 30-45 minutes. Stir the cannabis every 10-15 minutes to ensure uniform heating.

6. Check for Doneness:

Properly decarboxylated cannabis will turn a light golden brown and emit a slightly nutty aroma. Avoid overheating as it may degrade THC.

7. Cool Down:

Allow the cannabis to cool completely before using it in recipes or infusions.

Notes:

- Time and Temperature Balance: Lower temperatures (e.g., 220°F) may require more time (e.g., 45 minutes), while higher temperatures (e.g., 240°F) may finish in 30 minutes.
- Use Proper Ventilation: Decarboxylation can produce a strong smell. Ensure good airflow or use a fan.
- Store Safely: Decarboxylated cannabis should be stored in an airtight container in a cool, dark place to preserve potency.

Applications:

After decarboxylation, the cannabis can be used in:

- Cannabis-infused butter or oils
- Edibles
- Tinctures
- Topicals

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