



Ingredients:

- 2 cups warm (110 degrees) water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons dry granulated yeast
- 2 tablespoons vegetable shortening
- 6 ½ cups bread flour
- 1 tablespoon salt

Method:

- 1. Place the 2 cups water in the bowl of a stationary mixer fitted with a dough hook. Add 1-tablespoon sugar and sprinkle with the yeast. Allow to sit for about 15 minutes, until the mixture is bubbling. Add the remaining 1-tablespoon sugar, the shortening and 5 cups of flour.
- 2. Mix until a dough starts to form. Add the salt and the remaining flour as needed until the dough forms a ball and pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Continue to knead with the dough hook for 10 minutes.
- 3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead by hand for a minute or two, until dough is smooth and elastic.
- 4. Return it to the mixing bowl, cover with plastic wrap, and set in a warm, draft-free corner to rise for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, or until doubled in size.
- 5. Punch the dough down, and then divide it into four balls. Cover these with a clean dishtowel and let them rest for 15 minutes.
- 6. Form each ball into a 16-by-3-inch loaf. Place the loaves on baking sheets, cover them with a damp cloth and set aside to rise for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
- 7. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Gently place the fully risen loaves in the preheated oven and bake for about 30 minutes, until golden brown. Cool on racks.