

# Deep Dish Pizza (From The Frugal Girl)

## *Ingredients*

1 medium baking potato (about 9 ounces), peeled and quartered  
3 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons active dry yeast  
1 3/4 teaspoons table salt  
1 cup warm water (105 to 115 degrees)  
6 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided  
tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, and whatever toppings you desire

**1.** Bring 1 quart water to a boil. Add potato, and cook for 10-15 minutes, or until potato is very soft. Let potato cool, then grate on the fine side of a box grater. Measure 1 1/3 cups of loosely packed potato; set aside.

**2.** In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine 3 c. flour with yeast and salt. With the mixer running, add water and **2 tablespoons** oil. Beat for 1 minute, then beat in grated potato.

Beat for another 2-3 minutes, then turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead, adding flour as necessary, for 3-5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Place dough in bowl, cover with wet tea towel, and let rise until doubled, about 45-60 minutes.

**3.** Pour 2 tablespoons oil into two 9-inch cake pans, tilting to spread oil over bottoms of pans.

Gently turn dough out onto counter, divide in half, and shape each half into a 9-inch round. Place dough in pans; cover and let rest 10 minutes.

Press edges of dough up sides of pans; cover and let rise for 30 minutes.

**4.** While dough rises, place a pizza stone on the lower rack of the oven and heat the oven to 425 degrees. If you don't have a pizza stone, you can instead place a rimless baking sheet on the lower rack of the oven.

**5.** When the crusts have risen, poke them all over with a fork, and place them in the oven on top of the pizza stone or inverted baking sheet, and bake for 5-10 minutes (I usually do 10 minutes), or until lightly browned. This will help the dough to develop some structure so that the toppings won't make it fall and go flat.

**6.** Take the pizzas out of the oven and add tomato sauce, cheese, and desired toppings. Bake on pizza stone or baking sheet for another 10-15 minutes or until cheese melts. I sometimes move the pizza stone to the middle rack of the oven for this, because I have problems with my crust getting too brown if I leave it near the bottom of the oven (my oven tends to be hotter at the bottom than at the top).

**7.** Move the pizzas to the top rack of the oven and bake for 5 minutes, or until cheese turns spotty brown. Use a knife to loosen the pizzas from the pans, and turn out onto a cutting board. Cut into wedges and serve.