

# Cleo Coyle's Candy Cane Syrup

Photos and text © by Alice Alfonsi who writes [The Coffeehouse Mysteries](#) as [Cleo Coyle](#) in collaboration with her husband, Marc Cerasini.

Got extra candy canes? Then you can make this excellent pink peppermint syrup. It's delicious stirred into hot cocoa, drizzled over ice cream and cupcakes, and splashed into holiday cocktails. Or try using it the way my amateur sleuth (Clare Cosi) does—to make delicious Candy Cane Lattes. However you use the syrup, I hope you enjoy putting those leftover candy canes to good use. Happy Holidays, everyone! ~ [Cleo Coyle](#)

## Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar
- 8 large candy canes, broken up

**Directions:** Pour the water and sugar into a large saucepan. Stir over medium heat until the sugar has dissolved. Add the candy cane pieces to the mix and continue stirring and heating. When the candy canes begin to melt, the mix will turn a milky pink. Keep cooking and stirring until the mixture comes to a boil. Boil and continue stirring for 3–4 minutes, until the mixture begins to thicken up. Test it by coating the

back of a spoon (as in my photo >>). Remove from heat. Allow the syrup to cool in the pan before transferring to a storage jar or plastic bottle. To speed up the cooling process, I pop my plastic squeeze bottle into an ice water bath (or the freezer). Unused syrup should be stored in the refrigerator. When chilled, this peppermint syrup will thicken up quite a bit. To re-use, simply put the squeeze bottle or jar of syrup into a warm water bath or microwave for ten seconds.



## Looking for a Christmas mystery?

If you enjoy holiday-themed mysteries, I'm happy to suggest two in my Coffeehouse series: In [Holiday Buzz](#), coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi caters a glittering New York Christmas party and finds the murdered body of a young baker's assistant, a crime that she vows to solve. In [Holiday Grind](#) a kindly sidewalk Santa is slain, and Clare is on the case, not only to find his killer but rekindle the meaning of Christmas. Both books include fantastic recipe sections with holiday drinks, entrees, cookies, and treats! May you read (and eat) with joy to the world! ~ Cleo

