



# Ginger Beef Christmas Wok

## The Story of a Christmas Wok

My grandson calls this our “Christmas Wok.” It started years ago. We were busy wrapping gifts. Everyone was hungry. I needed something fast and full of cheer.

I pulled out the wok. In went ginger, garlic, and beef. The sizzle sounded like celebration. The smell filled the whole house. It felt like a party in a pan.

## Why the Marinade Matters

Do not rush the marinade. This is my big tip. Let the beef sit in that sauce. The flavors need time to become friends.

It tenderizes the meat. It also builds the taste from the inside out. Good food is not always fast. Some steps are about waiting. That matters.

## A Little Trick with the Meat

Here is a mini-anecdote for you. I used to slice steak and make a mess. The pieces were too thick. Then my friend Lily told me a secret.

Chill the steak first. Just 30 minutes in the freezer. It firms up. Then you can slice it so thin and pretty. I still laugh at that. Such a simple fix!

## The Dance in the Pan

Heat your pan until it is very hot. Pat your beef dry. This gives you a nice brown color. Color means flavor. Work in small batches.

Do not crowd the pan. Let each piece dance. Doesn't that smell amazing? Then you add the garlic and ginger. *Fun fact: ginger is a root, not an herb!* It wakes everything up.

## Make It Your Own

This recipe is like a friendly song. You can change the words. Use chicken instead of beef. Add more veggies if you like. Leave out the chilies for little ones.

The final stir of cilantro is my favorite part. It makes the dish fresh and bright. What is one ingredient you always add to stir-fry? I would love to know.

## More Than Just a Meal

This matters because it brings people together. You cook it fast at the end. But you planned a little ahead. That feels good.

Sharing food is sharing love. It is a warm dish on a cold night. Do you have a busy-night recipe that feels special? Tell me about yours.

## Cooking with Someone You Love

My last thought for you. Invite someone to help. Let them whisk the marinade. Or chop the green onions on a diagonal. It looks fancy but is easy.

Talk while you cook. That is the real secret ingredient. Would you rather be the one slicing or the one stirring? I am always the stirrer. Now, go make some noise in your kitchen.

## Ingredients:

| Ingredient                 | Amount                | Notes                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Top sirloin steak          | 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds | Sliced thin after chilling |
| Unseasoned rice vinegar    | 2 tablespoons         | For the marinade           |
| Soy sauce (or gluten-free) | 5 tablespoons         | For the marinade           |
| Honey                      | 1 tablespoon          | For the marinade           |
| Fresh ginger, grated       | 1 tablespoon          | For the marinade           |
| Chili pepper flakes        | 1 teaspoon            | For the marinade           |
| Ground cumin               | 1 teaspoon            | For the marinade           |

| Ingredient                   | Amount                   | Notes                         |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cornstarch                   | 1 tablespoon             | For slurry, plus 2 tbsp water |
| Vegetable oil (e.g., peanut) | 2 tablespoons            | For stir-frying               |
| Dark toasted sesame oil      | 1 tablespoon             | Optional, for stir-frying     |
| Green onions                 | 3 to 4                   | Cut on a diagonal             |
| Garlic cloves                | 2                        | Thinly sliced                 |
| Red serrano chilies          | 2 to 3                   | Seeded and sliced             |
| Fresh ginger                 | 1-inch knob              | Peeled, cut into matchsticks  |
| Cilantro, chopped            | 1/2 cup (loosely packed) | For finishing                 |



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### Instructions

**Step 1:** First, pop your steak in the freezer. This chills it for 30 minutes. A cold steak is much easier to slice thinly. Trust me, it makes all the difference. Then, slice it into thin strips. Think of making little beef ribbons.

See also [Sugar-Spared Pecan Shortbread Christmas Bites](#)

**Step 2:** Now, let's make the marinade. Whisk everything in a bowl. That ginger and honey smell so good together. Toss your beef ribbons in until they're coated. Let them sit in the fridge for 30 minutes. They'll soak up all that tasty flavor.

**Step 3:** Get your cornstarch and cold water ready. Mix them in a little bowl. This is our magic thickener for the sauce. Make sure it's smooth with no lumps. Set it aside for later. I always forget this step, so I do it now!

**Step 4:** Heat your oil in the wok until it's very hot. Pat the beef dry with a paper towel first (this gives you a better sear). Cook the beef in small batches. You just want it browned on the outside. It cooks so fast! Take it out and set it aside.

**Step 5:** In that same hot pan, add the chilies and garlic. Stir them for less than a minute. Can you smell that amazing aroma? Then add the matchstick ginger. It sizzles and smells even better. This is the heart of the dish.

**Step 6:** Put all the beef back into the wok. Pour in your cornstarch mixture and add the green onions. Stir everything together quickly. The

sauce will turn shiny and thick. **What's your favorite veggie to stir-fry? Share below!** Cook it for just one more minute.

**Step 7:** Turn off the heat. Stir in the fresh, chopped cilantro. Doesn't that green color look pretty? Serve it immediately over fluffy white rice. The whole dish comes together in a happy, sizzling rush. I still laugh at how fast we eat it.

## Creative Twists

This recipe is wonderful just as it is. But sometimes, it's fun to play. Here are a few ideas from my kitchen. Try adding a big handful of snap peas for a sweet crunch. You could use thin slices of chicken instead of beef for a change. Or, stir in a spoonful of orange zest at the end for a bright, sunny flavor. Which one would you try first? Comment below!

See also Feta and Egg Yuletide Bake

## Serving & Pairing Ideas

This ginger beef loves a simple bed of steamed jasmine rice. It soaks up the lovely sauce. For color, add some quick-cooked broccoli on the side. A sprinkle of sesame seeds on top looks so nice. For a drink, a cold ginger beer is perfect. It matches the spice. For the grown-ups, a light, crisp lager pairs beautifully. Which would you choose tonight?



## Ginger Beef Christmas Wok

# Keeping Your Ginger Beef Merry and Bright

This ginger beef is best eaten right away. But leftovers are a wonderful treat. Let them cool completely first. Then store them in a sealed container in the fridge. They will be good for up to three days.

You can freeze it for up to two months. I use small containers for single servings. This way, my grandson can heat one for his lunch. I once froze a big batch for a busy week. It was such a relief to have dinner ready.

Reheat it gently in a pan with a splash of water. This keeps the beef tender. The microwave can make it rubbery. Batch cooking saves time and reduces stress. It means a good meal is always close by. **Have you ever tried storing it this way? Share below!**

## Simple Fixes for a Perfect Wok

First, your beef might steam instead of brown. Pat the slices very dry with a paper towel. A wet piece of meat will not sear properly. I remember when I learned this trick. My stir-fry became ten times better.

Second, the sauce might not thicken. Make sure your cornstarch slurry is smooth. Mix it with cold water until no lumps remain. This matters because a smooth slurry makes a glossy sauce. It coats every piece beautifully.

Third, everything can cook too fast. Work in small batches. Do not crowd the pan. This gives the food space to sizzle. Crowding lowers the

pan's heat quickly. Good browning builds deep, rich flavor. **Which of these problems have you run into before?**

## Your Quick Questions, Answered

### **Q: Can I make this gluten-free?**

A: Yes! Use gluten-free soy sauce or tamari. Check your other labels too.

### **Q: Can I make parts ahead?**

A: You can slice the beef and make the marinade early. Combine them when you are ready to cook.

### **Q: What if I don't have fresh ginger?**

A: Use 1/4 teaspoon of ground ginger in the marinade. The flavor will be different, but still nice.

### **Q: Can I double the recipe?**

A: You can, but cook the beef in more batches. A crowded wok will not get hot enough.

### **Q: Is the sesame oil needed?**

A: It is optional but lovely. It adds a deep, nutty taste. \*Fun fact: Toasted sesame oil is for flavor, not for frying!\* **Which tip will you try first?**

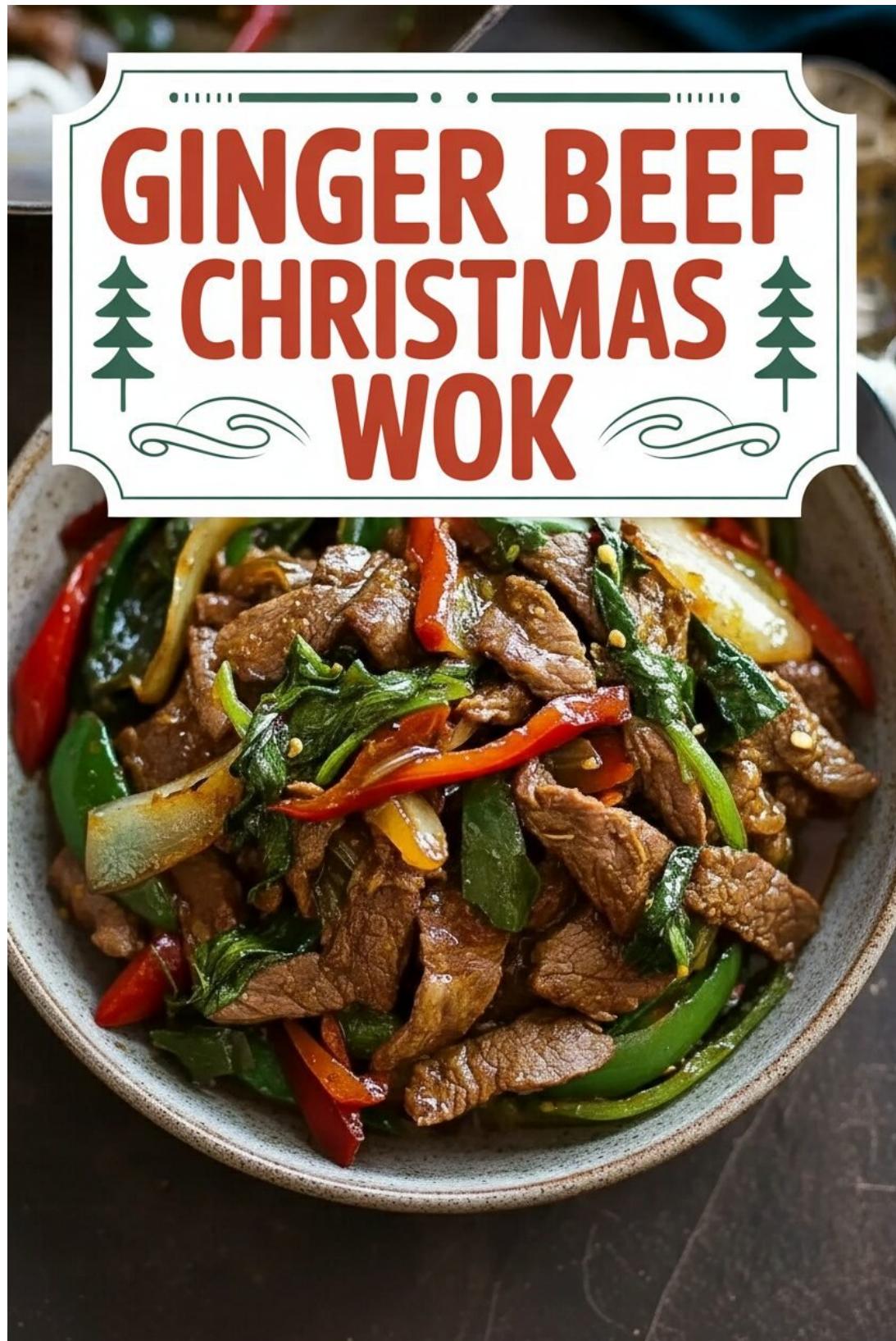
See also Chocolate Slice Holiday Cookies

## From My Kitchen to Yours

I hope you love making this ginger beef. The smell of it cooking is pure happiness. It always reminds me of family gathered around the table.

I would love to hear about your cooking adventure. Tell me all about it in the comments. **Have you tried this recipe?** Your stories are my favorite thing to read.

Happy cooking!  
—Elowen Thorn.



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# Ginger Beef Christmas Wok

Author: Elowen Thorn

Cooking Method:[Stovetop Stir Fry](#)

Cuisine:[Asian](#)

Courses:[Main](#)

Difficulty: **Beginner**

Prep time: **15 minutes**

Cook time: **10 minutes**

Marinating time: **30 minutes**

Total time: **55 minutes**

Servings: **4 servings**

Calories: **380 kcal**

Best Season:**Summer**

## **Description**

Easy Ginger Beef Stir Fry

## Ingredients

### For the Marinade:

- 2 tablespoons unseasoned rice vinegar
- 5 tablespoons soy sauce or gluten-free soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon peeled and grated fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon chili pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin

### For the Beef and Stir Fry:

- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2-pound top sirloin steak
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, preferably peanut oil
- 1 tablespoon dark toasted sesame oil (optional)
- 3 to 4 green onions, cut on a diagonal, 1/2 inch apart, including the greens
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 2 to 3 red serrano chilies, seeded and sliced
- 1-inch knob of fresh ginger, peeled and cut into matchstick pieces
- 1/2 cup loosely packed chopped cilantro

## Instructions

1. Chill and Slice the Steak: Place the steak in the freezer for 30 minutes to firm it for easier slicing. Remove the steak and slice it crosswise into 1/2-inch pieces, then cut each piece lengthwise into thin strips.
2. Prepare the Marinade: In a medium bowl, whisk together the rice

vinegar, soy sauce, honey, grated ginger, chili flakes, and cumin. Add the sliced beef and ensure all pieces are coated evenly. Refrigerate and marinate for at least 30 minutes, or up to 4 hours.

3. Prepare the Cornstarch Slurry: In a small bowl, combine the cornstarch with 2 tablespoons of cold water to form a smooth slurry. Set aside.
4. Brown the Beef: Heat the vegetable oil (and sesame oil, if using) in a wok or large sauté pan over high heat until nearly smoking. Pat the beef dry to promote browning. Working in small batches, sauté the beef for up to 1 minute, just until browned on the outside but still rare inside. Transfer to a separate bowl.
5. Stir Fry the Aromatics: Add the sliced chilies and garlic to the hot pan and stir fry for 30 to 45 seconds. Add the matchstick ginger and cook an additional 30 to 45 seconds, allowing the aromatics to release their fragrance.
6. Combine the Beef and Sauce: Return the browned beef to the pan. Add the cornstarch slurry and sliced green onions. Stir to coat all ingredients evenly and cook for 1 minute, allowing the sauce to thicken.
7. Finish and Serve: Remove the pan from heat. Stir in the chopped cilantro. Serve immediately with steamed white rice.

## Notes

To prepare this Easy Ginger Beef Stir Fry as a gluten-free dish: Use gluten-free soy sauce, tamari, or coconut aminos in the marinade. Confirm that the rice vinegar, chili flakes, and cornstarch are certified gluten-free, as some brands may include additives. Ensure that the wok or pan and utensils have no gluten cross-contamination. Serve with gluten-free rice or gluten-free noodles.

Keywords:Ginger Beef, Stir Fry, Christmas, Wok, Beef, Asian