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CHEESY BACON & RANCH CAVATAPPI

with Monterey Jack & Cheddar





You may notice that we pretty much always ask you to reserve a bit of pasta cooking water before draining your pasta. Wondering what makes this cloudy water so darn special? It's salty and starchy, and those magical starches help emulsify your sauce (aka turn it silky smooth). Basically, it makes good pasta great, and we'd never leave you with a bowlful of just good.



Bring a large pot of **salted water** to a boil. **Wash and dry produce.** Trim and thinly slice **scallions**, separating whites from greens; mince whites. Once water is boiling, add **pasta** to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until al dente, 9–11 minutes. Reserve **1 cup pasta cooking water** (2 cups for 4 servings), then drain. Toss drained pasta with a **drizzle of oil** and set aside.

Pat chicken dry with paper towels; season all over with salt and pepper. Heat a drizzle of oil in a large, preferably nonstick, pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned and cooked through, 4–6 minutes. Turn off heat; transfer to a plate. Wipe out pan.



Heat a **drizzle of oil** in pan used for bacon over medium heat. Add **scallion whites**; cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, 1–2 minutes. Whisk in **1 TBSP flour** (2 TBSP for 4 servings) until well combined. Whisk in **reserved pasta cooking water**; bring to a simmer.



Top **pasta** with **scallion greens**, **remaining cheddar**, and **remaining bacon**. Drizzle with **remaining ranch dressing** and serve family style.

Top pasta with remaining chicken.

Bacon is fully cooked when internal temperature reaches 145°. Chicken is fully cooked when internal temperature reaches 165°.



Add **bacon** to a large dry, preferably nonstick, pan in a single layer; heat over medium-high heat. Cook, turning occasionally, until crispy, 6–10 minutes. Turn off heat; transfer bacon to a paper-towel-lined plate. Wipe out pan. Once cool enough to handle, roughly chop.



Use pan used for chicken here.



Add stock concentrate, Monterey Jack, cream cheese, half the cheddar, and half the ranch dressing to pan; stir to combine. Add pasta; stir to evenly coat. Stir in half the bacon. Taste and season with salt and pepper if desired.



Add half the chicken to pan along with pasta.