## Sturdy Raspberry Buttercream Poetry \& Pies

total time: 10-15 minutes
yields: about $2 ½$ to 3 cups (enough for a two or three layer cake or 24 cupcakes)

## Ingredients

- $1 \frac{1}{2}$ cups ( 340 g ) unsalted butter*, softened slightly**

- 4-6 cups (500-750g) powdered sugar
- $11 / 2$ tablespoons ( 20 g ) pure vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon (3g) sea salt
- $1 / 2$ to 1 ounce (usually one small bag) freeze dried raspberries, finely ground
- 2-4 tablespoons (30-60g) heavy whipping cream


## Instructions

1. Beat the butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the powdered sugar, one cup at a time, and beat first on low then slowly increase to high until smooth after each addition. Scrape down the bowl after every other cup.
2. Once you've added 4 cups of powdered sugar, add the vanilla and salt. Beat on medium until blended. Turn the mixer up to high and beat for 3-5 minutes, until fluffy and very smooth.
3. Using a small food processor or a spice grinder, finely grind the raspberries into a powder, similar to the texture of powdered sugar. Start with half the bag of berries and grind the rest only if needed (unless your grinder won't create a fine powder-this is often because it's not full enough).
4. Add the powdered berries to the bowl of your mixer. Beat on low to medium-low until blended. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl as well as the paddle attachment and beat again until everything is smooth and a homogeneous color.
5. Add heavy cream, 1 tablespoon at a time and beating on medium until blended, until the mixture is very smooth and spreadable. Avoid using too much cream.
6. Once the frosting is smooth, beat on medium for $30-60$ seconds to ensure it is well-mixed and perfectly smooth. If any air bubbles remain, stir by hand for 1 minute to remove these.

Enjoy!
Buttercream can be made ahead and stored in an airtight container in the fridge for 1-2 weeks or in the freezer for 1-2 months.
*I highly recommend European style butter for frosting! It has less water and makes a creamier frosting.
**If your butter has become shiny or oily, put it back in the fridge for 5-10 minutes until it firms up a bit (not hard) and is matte in appearance.

