

Homemade Florida Water Recipe

A Traditional Citrus-Floral Botanical Blend

Prep Time: 15 mins	Steeping Time: 2–4 weeks
Estimated Yield: ~1.5 to 1.75 cups (approx. 12–14 fl oz / 350–415 mL)	Base: 80-100 Proof Vodka

**Note on Fluid Yield: While the starting liquid volume is 2 cups (1 cup alcohol + 1 cup rosewater), the organic botanicals, spices, and citrus peels absorb a small portion of the liquid during the long maceration process, resulting in a final strained yield of roughly 1.5 to 1.75 cups.*

Ingredients

- **1 cup** High-Proof Vodka (80 to 100-proof; clear and unscented)
- **1 cup** Rosewater (or distilled water)
- **1 fresh citrus peel** (orange, lemon, or bergamot)
- **2 cups** Fresh or dried botanicals (lavender, rose petals, rosemary, or mint)
- **2 whole** Cinnamon sticks
- **1 tsp** Whole cloves
- **Optional:** 10–20 drops of essential oils (lavender, bergamot, or ylang-ylang) to boost fragrance

Step-by-Step Instructions

- 1. Prepare the Botanicals:** Place the citrus peels, herbs, flowers, and whole spices directly into a clean, sterile glass jar.
- 2. Infuse:** Pour the vodka and rosewater evenly over the botanicals until everything is fully submerged and the jar is nearly full.
- 3. Seal & Macerate:** Close the lid tightly. Store the jar in a cool, dark place for 2 to 4 weeks (a full lunar cycle is traditional). Shake the jar gently every few days to agitate the ingredients.
- 4. Strain:** After steeping, place a fine-mesh sieve or cheesecloth over a large bowl and pour the mixture through to separate the liquid from the plant matter. Squeeze the cloth gently to extract maximum fluid.
- 5. Bottle & Store:** Decant the clear amber fluid into clean glass bottles, preferably equipped with a spray nozzle or splash top for easy use.

Alcohol Selection Guidelines

- **Vodka (80–100 proof):** The ideal choice. It safely preserves the formula, extracts aromatic oils cleanly, and leaves no competing heavy odors.
- **Everclear (151 or 190 proof):** Highly efficient for lightning-fast extraction, but requires adding extra distilled water later to lower the pungent alcohol smell.
- **Witch Hazel:** The absolute best alcohol-free alternative if you intend to use this recipe primarily as a facial toner or skin splash.
- **Isopropyl (Rubbing) Alcohol:** Avoid completely. Its harsh chemical aroma easily overpowers the delicate notes of citrus and flower petals.