Sourdough SOS



COMMON PROBLEMS

(Then)

My dough is flat after hours of fermenting.

My dough is tough and doesn't feel elastic.

My dough won't stretch and keeps shrinking back.

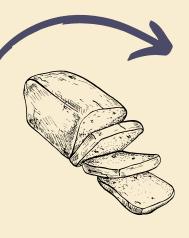
My dough is too sticky to handle.

My dough spreads out and doesn't hold its shape.

My dough rips when I try to shape or stretch it.

My dough gets large air pockets before baking.

My dough has a very strong sour smell.



Let it ferment longer in a warm spot (75–80°F).

The dough is under-hydrated. Add a small amount of water and knead it in.

The gluten is too tight. Let the dough rest for 15–20 minutes before shaping again.





Chill it in the fridge for 30 minutes before handling.

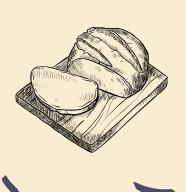
The dough is overhydrated or lacks gluten strength. Stretch and fold during bulk fermentation.

The gluten structure is weak. Let the dough rest for 15 minutes, then fold gently.





The dough is overproofed. Reduce proofing time next time.



It has overfermented. Use it immediately or reduce fermentation time next time.