Smoky Pecan Pimento Cheese

16 oz. block (ungrated) cheddar cheese (I used 8 oz. mild, 8 oz. medium) Generous 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

1 cup real mayonnaise

1 small (2 oz.) jar chopped pimentos, drained

3/4 teaspoon smoked paprika

1/4 teaspoon chipotle powder

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon liquid smoke

1/8 teaspoon sugar

salt and pepper to taste (I didn't need any salt; the cheese and mayo are pretty salty)

- **1.** Grate cheese into a large bowl, then add pecans. Set aside.
- **2.** In a small bowl, mix the mayonnaise and all the rest of the ingredients until very well combined.
- **3.** Stir mayonnaise mixture into cheese and pecans and mix well.
- **4.** Cover tightly and refrigerate several hours or (preferably) overnight. Setting it out of the refrigerator for a few minutes before serving will make it more spreadable. Refrigerate leftovers.

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