

Christmas Cookie Madness

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There are two types of holiday cookie bakers. First, there are those who faithfully recreate their favorite recipes year after year to the acclaim of gift recipients. Yes, tried and true recipes are successful... but they can get a bit boring! Do their friends really wait each year with gleeful anticipation for the same old pecan sandies and rum balls, or do they secretly yearn for coconut lemon macaroons and double fudge bar cookies? If you are one of these bakers, take a breather from your holiday traditions, and try a fabulous new recipe!

Perhaps you are already a holiday baker who feverishly scours books, magazines and Web sites to make lists as long as the Great Wall of China of things to bake this season. For family members, friends, distant third cousins in Antarctica, or the neighbor's dog - it doesn't matter. Drop cookies, icebox cookies, cookies with filling, and cookies dipped in chocolate... it all sounds scrumptious and incredibly doable in late November. A little less doable in the second week of December... and by the week of the actual gifting, we resign ourselves to [Snickerdoodles](#) and M & M cookies, hastily made and wrapped in wax paper. But the trip between the fantasy and reality is what we savor each year.

If you have other friends as crazy about cookies as you are - or perhaps you can willfully mistake their polite interest for a kindred fanaticism - invite them to a cookie exchange. [Better Homes and Gardens recommends](#) inviting 8-12 people, and asking everyone to bring enough cookies for each person attending. A neat addition to cookie exchanges is a cookbook that you compile from everyone's recipes; ask them to email the recipe to you beforehand and compile enough copies for each family.

The library has a bounty of beautiful and practical cookie books (note the difference here, at least for me) that are fun to browse. There are countless cookie web sites online as well.

In the Library

Click on the book's title to go to the library catalog and place a reserve.

[The Christmas Cookie Book](#)

By Lou Seibert Pappas

This petite book boasts some lovely photos, although not every recipe is illustrated. The recipes are similarly elegant, with more expensive materials and more time required for these recipes than many other books in the collection (Cardamom Shortbread Stars requires that you grind your own cardamom seeds in the grinder, for example). The section "Cookies for Gift Giving and Mailing" includes selections that would make beautiful gifts.

[Christmas Is Cookies and Gingerbread and Fudge and Spice Cake and More](#)

By The Everyday Cookbooks

This homey cookbook has recipes that you may imagine your grandmother's family made: soft molasses cookies, pecan lace cookies, grasshopper pie, and so on. Unfortunately, there are no pictures, but the recipes are clear and relatively simple. Additional sections include cakes, pies and puddings, candy, and quick breads and coffee cakes.

[Cookies for Christmas](#)

By Jennifer Dorland Darling

An impressive collection of cookie recipes that lets you roll, spritz, twist, cut-out, and drop your way to cookie ecstasy. Each recipe is accompanied by beautiful photographs and numbered instructions that break down the process into easy steps. You'll find traditional recipes here, but also variations on a theme and many modern inventions. Kid-friendly recipes are marked by a special icon. Tested in Better Homes and Gardens kitchens.

[FamilyFun's Cookies for Christmas](#)

Edited by Deanna F. Cook

Fifty doable, nicely illustrated and clearly instructed recipes for kids and their parents to make together. Includes cookie decorating with a "Merry Christmas" Holiday Garland; such classics as Thumbprint Cookies and Candy Cane Twists; and a few international recipes like the British Isles-derived shortbread and Easter Europe's Czech Linzer cookies.

[Rose's Christmas Cookies](#)

By Rose Levy Beranbaum

From the author of *The Cake Bible* comes this collection of both elegant and easy cookie recipes. Be sure to ogle the Gingerbread Cathedral, a stunning work of culinary art.

On the Web

Lots of Cookies

[Holiday Recipe: Merry Christmas](#)

<http://allrecipes.com/Recipes/Holidays-and-Events/Christmas/Main.aspx>

By AllRecipes.com

Lots of cookie articles and recipes under "Christmas Cookie Recipes". For gift ideas, look under "Christmas Gifts". This is one of my favorite places to get recipes, because many of them are rated by Web visitors and are accompanied by their reviews and comments.

[Homemade Cookies](#)

<http://www.bhg.com/>

By Better Homes and Gardens

There is something here for bakers of every skill level. Beginners will appreciate "Cookie Basics" and "How-To Videos." In "Cookie Recipes" you'll find all kinds of cookies, from cookies for kids, for adults, and for giving to cookies on a stick and a 50-state cookie salute.

[Cookie Recipes - Part I](#)

http://www.flylady.net/pages/FFT_Recipes1.asp

By FlyLady's Subscribers

Subscribers to FlyLady's email mentoring program on home and time organization share their favorite cookie recipes. Also check out [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#). While these recipes may be hit or miss, it's great fun to browse everyone's favorites and note which ones you would like to make. I have already made 2 recipes, and enjoyed them both.

[The Holiday Cookie Jar](#)

<http://www.ivillage.com/food/celebrate/winterhol/>

By iVillage.com

Fifty favorite cookie recipes like White Christmas Cranberry Florentines and Oatmeal Toffee Chip Cookies.
No ratings included.

Cookies in a Jar and Other Gifts

[Gifts in a Jar](#)

<http://www.christmas-cookies.com/recipes/category.phtml?catid=28>

By Christmas-Cookies.com

Basic jar cookie recipes and ratings.

[Gifts in a Jar: Easy Make-Ahead Gifts](#)

By OrganizedHome.com

<http://organizedchristmas.com/index-gifts-in-a-jar>

Lots of easy, do-it-yourself gift ideas. Branch out from the cookie-in-a-jar mix and make "Peaches and Cream Bath Salts" or a "Journal Jar." Then print out color tags, address, and voila!

[Kitchen Mixes](#)

<http://www.kitchenmixes.com/>

By KitchenMixes.com

All sorts of mixes from your kitchen - sweet, savory,