

how to make homemade cookies

How to Make Homemade Cookies: A Delightful Guide to Baking from Scratch

how to make homemade cookies is a question many baking enthusiasts, beginners, and even seasoned home cooks ask themselves when craving a warm, sweet treat. There's something magical about the aroma of freshly baked cookies wafting through the kitchen, the satisfying crunch or chewy bite, and the joy of sharing these little bundles of happiness with family and friends. Whether you're aiming to bake classic chocolate chip cookies, buttery sugar cookies, or experimenting with oatmeal raisin or peanut butter varieties, understanding the fundamentals of cookie making can elevate your baking game tremendously.

Understanding the Basics of How to Make Homemade Cookies

Before diving into specific recipes, it's essential to grasp the basic principles that govern cookie baking. Cookies, in essence, are a combination of dry and wet ingredients mixed together and baked to perfection. The texture, flavor, and appearance of your cookies depend largely on the balance and types of ingredients used, as well as the baking technique.

Key Ingredients and Their Roles

When learning how to make homemade cookies, knowing what each ingredient contributes can help you tweak recipes or troubleshoot issues:

- **Flour**: Provides structure. All-purpose flour is the standard, but cake flour can yield softer cookies, while bread flour can make chewier cookies.
- **Sugar**: Sweetens and affects texture. Granulated sugar leads to crisper cookies, while brown sugar adds moisture and chewiness due to its molasses content.
- **Butter**: Adds flavor and richness. The amount of butter and whether it is melted, softened, or cold influences cookie spread and texture.
- **Eggs**: Bind ingredients and add moisture. More eggs typically make cookies cakier.
- **Leavening agents (baking soda or baking powder)**: Help cookies rise and create a lighter texture.
- **Salt**: Enhances flavor and balances sweetness.
- **Flavorings and add-ins**: Vanilla extract, chocolate chips, nuts, dried fruits, and spices customize your cookies.

The Importance of Ingredient Temperature

One tip that many overlook when exploring how to make homemade cookies is the temperature of the ingredients. Using room temperature butter and eggs allows for better mixing and incorporation of air, which can impact the cookie's texture. Conversely, cold butter can result in a more crumbly cookie with less spread. Experimenting with ingredient temperatures can be an exciting way to

personalize your cookies.

Step-by-Step Guide: How to Make Homemade Cookies from Scratch

Now that you understand the essentials, here's a straightforward guide to baking cookies that are fresh, flavorful, and homemade.

1. Gather Your Ingredients

Start with quality ingredients. Here's a basic list for classic chocolate chip cookies:

- 1 cup (226g) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (150g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (165g) packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups (280g) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups (340g) chocolate chips

2. Preheat Your Oven and Prepare Baking Sheets

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats to prevent sticking and ensure even baking.

3. Cream Butter and Sugars

Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, beat the softened butter with granulated and brown sugars until the mixture is light and fluffy. This step is crucial for introducing air, which helps cookies rise and develop a tender crumb.

4. Add Eggs and Vanilla

Mix in the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in vanilla extract to infuse your dough with aromatic warmth.

5. Combine Dry Ingredients Separately

In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. This ensures even distribution of leavening agents and salt, preventing uneven rising or salty pockets.

6. Incorporate Dry Ingredients into Wet

Gradually add the dry mixture to the wet ingredients, mixing on low speed until just combined. Overmixing can develop gluten in the flour, leading to tougher cookies.

7. Fold in Chocolate Chips

Using a spatula, gently fold in the chocolate chips or other mix-ins like nuts or dried fruit.

8. Portion the Dough

Scoop the dough using a cookie scoop or spoon, placing mounds about 2 inches apart on the baking sheet. This spacing allows the cookies to spread without merging.

9. Bake and Cool

Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until edges are golden brown but centers still look soft. Remember, cookies continue to cook slightly after removal from the oven due to residual heat. Let them cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

Tips and Tricks to Perfect Your Homemade Cookies

Mastering how to make homemade cookies involves some trial and error, but these insights can help you achieve bakery-quality results:

Adjusting Texture: Chewy vs. Crispy

- For chewy cookies: Increase brown sugar, use melted butter, and slightly underbake by a minute.
- For crispy cookies: Use more granulated sugar, cold butter, and bake until edges are deeply golden.

Enhancing Flavor

- Toast nuts before adding them to deepen their flavor.
- Add a pinch of cinnamon or espresso powder to the dough to subtly enhance chocolate flavor.
- Use high-quality vanilla extract or try vanilla bean paste for richer aroma.

Storage for Freshness

Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature. To keep them soft, include a slice of bread or a few marshmallows in the container to maintain moisture. Alternatively, freeze cookie dough balls for up to three months and bake fresh cookies anytime you crave them.

Exploring Variations: Beyond the Classic Chocolate Chip

Once comfortable with the basics, you can experiment with countless cookie variations by swapping ingredients or adding new ones.

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Replace some flour with rolled oats and add raisins and a sprinkle of cinnamon. The oats contribute a hearty texture and wholesome flavor.

Peanut Butter Cookies

Use peanut butter in place of some butter and reduce sugar slightly. These cookies are rich, nutty, and often have a characteristic crisscross fork pattern on top.

Double Chocolate Cookies

Incorporate cocoa powder into the dry ingredients and use white chocolate chips or nuts for contrast.

Vegan or Gluten-Free Options

Substitute butter with coconut oil or vegan margarine, and replace eggs with flax or chia seed eggs. Use gluten-free flour blends for allergy-friendly baking.

Embracing the Joy of Homemade Cookies

There's a special satisfaction in knowing exactly what goes into your treats, from scratch, with care and creativity. How to make homemade cookies isn't just about following a recipe; it's about experimenting, learning, and sharing warmth through food. Whether baking for holidays, celebrations, or just because, homemade cookies bring comfort and smiles in every bite. So gather your ingredients, roll up your sleeves, and start your delicious baking adventure today!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic ingredients needed to make homemade cookies?

The basic ingredients for homemade cookies typically include flour, sugar, butter, eggs, baking soda or baking powder, vanilla extract, and salt.

How can I make my homemade cookies soft and chewy?

To make cookies soft and chewy, use brown sugar instead of all white sugar, add an extra egg yolk, and avoid overbaking. Also, slightly underbaking the cookies helps retain moisture.

What is the best way to store homemade cookies to keep them fresh?

Store homemade cookies in an airtight container at room temperature. To keep them soft, you can add a slice of bread to the container to maintain moisture.

Can I make homemade cookies without eggs?

Yes, you can make egg-free cookies by substituting eggs with ingredients like applesauce, mashed bananas, yogurt, or flaxseed mixed with water as an egg replacement.

How do I prevent homemade cookies from spreading too much while baking?

To prevent cookies from spreading too much, chill the dough before baking, use parchment paper or silicone mats, and avoid using too much butter or sugar in the recipe.

What are some popular add-ins for homemade cookies?

Popular add-ins include chocolate chips, nuts (like walnuts or pecans), dried fruits (such as raisins or cranberries), coconut flakes, and candy pieces.

Can I make homemade cookies gluten-free?

Yes, you can make gluten-free cookies by using gluten-free flour blends instead of regular flour. Be sure to use a blend that includes xanthan gum or add it separately to help with texture.

How long should I bake homemade cookies for the best results?

Bake cookies at 350°F (175°C) for 8-12 minutes, depending on the size and type of cookie. Remove them when the edges are set and the centers look slightly underbaked for a soft texture.

Additional Resources

How to Make Homemade Cookies: A Comprehensive Guide to Baking Perfection

how to make homemade cookies is a question that has intrigued both novice bakers and seasoned culinary enthusiasts alike. The process of transforming simple pantry staples into delectable, aromatic treats requires more than just following a recipe; it demands an understanding of ingredient interactions, baking techniques, and the subtle nuances that influence texture and flavor. This article delves into the critical aspects of homemade cookie preparation, providing an analytical perspective on the methods, ingredients, and variations that define successful cookie baking.

The Fundamentals of Homemade Cookie Baking

Mastering how to make homemade cookies begins with grasping the foundational elements that contribute to a cookie's structure and taste. At its core, a cookie recipe typically includes flour, sugar, fat, eggs, and leavening agents. Each component plays a distinct role:

- **Flour:** Provides the structural framework through gluten formation.
- **Sugar:** Contributes sweetness, moisture retention, and caramelization.
- **Fat (butter, shortening, or oil):** Adds richness and influences texture.
- **Eggs:** Bind ingredients and provide moisture.
- **Leavening agents (baking soda or baking powder):** Affect rise and spread.

Understanding how these ingredients interact can elevate the cookie baking experience from a mere task to an informed craft.

Choosing the Right Ingredients

The quality and type of ingredients are pivotal in shaping the final product. For example, using unsalted butter allows greater control over salt content, which is essential for balancing sweetness and enhancing flavor complexity. Additionally, the choice between brown sugar and white granulated sugar can significantly alter the cookie's texture and taste. Brown sugar's molasses content imparts moisture and chewiness, whereas white sugar encourages crispness and spread.

Flour selection warrants attention as well. All-purpose flour is the standard choice, but experimenting with bread flour can increase chewiness due to its higher protein content, while cake flour results in a more tender crumb. Moreover, the role of leavening agents should not be underestimated; baking soda promotes spread and browning, while baking powder yields a puffier, cakier cookie.

Techniques in Mixing and Dough Preparation

The method of combining ingredients directly impacts dough consistency and, consequently, the cookie's texture. Creaming butter and sugar introduces air, contributing to a lighter, tender crumb. Overmixing the dough post-flour incorporation can develop excess gluten, resulting in tougher cookies. Therefore, folding the dry ingredients gently until just combined is often advised.

Chilling the dough is another technique that affects spread and texture. Refrigerated dough firms up the fat, reducing spread during baking and allowing flavors to meld. This step is particularly beneficial when aiming for thicker, chewier cookies.

Exploring Different Cookie Types and Baking Strategies

The realm of homemade cookies is vast, with recipes ranging from crisp biscotti to soft, chewy chocolate chip varieties. Each type requires tailored baking strategies.

Soft and Chewy vs. Crisp Cookies

Achieving either a soft, chewy cookie or a crisp, crunchy one depends on ingredient ratios and baking time. For softer cookies, higher moisture content and shorter bake times are key. Incorporating more brown sugar and an extra egg yolk can increase chewiness, while baking at a slightly lower temperature helps retain moisture.

Conversely, crisp cookies benefit from increased white sugar, minimal moisture, and longer baking times at moderate temperatures to draw out water content and encourage caramelization. For example, classic biscotti are baked twice to achieve their signature crunch.

Flavor Variations and Add-ins

One advantage of homemade cookies is the ability to customize flavors. Common add-ins include chocolate chips, nuts, dried fruits, and spices like cinnamon or nutmeg. Each inclusion affects the texture and taste profile. Nuts introduce crunch and richness, while dried fruits add chewiness and bursts of sweetness.

Balancing flavors requires consideration of ingredient moisture and sweetness. For instance, dried fruits with high sugar content may necessitate reducing added sugar slightly to prevent overly sweet outcomes.

Optimizing Baking Conditions for Perfect Cookies

Temperature and baking time are critical parameters in how to make homemade cookies with consistent success.

Oven Temperature and Its Impact

Most cookie recipes recommend baking at temperatures between 325°F and 375°F (163°C to 190°C). Higher temperatures encourage rapid spreading and browning, which can be desirable for thin, crisp cookies. Lower temperatures, meanwhile, allow for a more even bake and softer interior.

Utilizing an oven thermometer can help monitor actual oven temperature, which often deviates from the dial setting, ensuring precise control. Rotating baking sheets midway through the process can also promote even baking.

Choosing the Right Bakeware

The type of baking sheet influences heat conduction and, by extension, cookie texture. Light-colored aluminum sheets reflect heat and minimize overbrowning, while dark pans absorb heat and can cause faster browning on the bottom. Using parchment paper or silicone baking mats helps prevent sticking and promotes even cooking.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Despite detailed recipes, some difficulties often arise in homemade cookie baking.

Uneven Baking and Spreading

Cookies that bake unevenly or spread too much may be the result of overly warm dough, insufficient chilling, or incorrect oven temperature. Ensuring dough is chilled and using an oven thermometer helps mitigate these issues. Additionally, measuring flour accurately prevents dough that is too wet or dry.

Texture Issues: Too Hard or Too Soft

Texture problems frequently stem from ingredient imbalances or baking time errors. Overbaking leads to hard cookies, while underbaking can produce doughy centers. Adjusting sugar types, fat content, and baking duration according to desired texture is essential.

Enhancing the Homemade Cookie Experience

Understanding how to make homemade cookies extends beyond the kitchen into storage and presentation. Properly cooling cookies on wire racks prevents sogginess caused by residual steam. Storing cookies in airtight containers maintains freshness, with softer cookies benefiting from added moisture sources like a slice of bread in the container.

Experimentation plays a vital role in refining homemade cookie recipes. Keeping notes on ingredient substitutions, baking conditions, and outcomes can guide future improvements and personalization. Whether aiming for a classic chocolate chip or an innovative flavor combination, the journey of cookie making is both rewarding and instructive.

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how to make homemade cookies: *Cookies For Dummies* Carole Bloom, 2011-04-27 Have you ever opened a box of store-bought cookies and after the first dry bite, wished you were eating a warm, fresh baked one instead? Even store-bought cookies that claim to taste homemade really can't compare to the real thing. Well, cookie lovers, thanks to baker Carole Bloom, you can have the real thing—any time and any day of the week. With *Cookies For Dummies*, you'll be whipping up platefuls of the most scrumptious cookies imaginable in absolutely no time. Think Very Rich Cakelike Brownies. Or Almond Butter Cookies. Or Chocolate Biscotti. And not only will the book's nearly 200 recipes awaken the baker within, you'll get foolproof tips on making any type of creation in cookiedom—from simple drop, rolled, and refrigerator cookies to the more challenging bar, sandwich, and filled cookies, and finally, the pressed, hand-formed, and molded cookies that'll let you style eye-catching cookies that bear your unique signature. With help on every page, the book cues you in on: Baking basics—such as choosing the right kitchen equipment and stocking up on essentials Foolproof techniques for outstanding cookies, plus tips on troubleshooting baking mishaps Decorating with chocolate (with tips on piping, painting, and stenciling) Creating slender versions of old favorites, while maintaining texture and boosting flavor Discovering cookies from other cultures Baking for the holidays and making baking fun for kids With a summary cheat sheet of baking essentials, helpful how-to illustrations, and humorous cartoons along the way, *Cookies For Dummies* will help you bake awe-inspiring homemade cookies that will have even the fanatical cookie lovers in your family clamoring for more.

how to make homemade cookies: *From Scratch A Journey into the World of Everyday Cookies* Laura Sheridan, 2023-06-15 *From Scratch: A Journey into the World of Everyday Cookies* is a delightful and comprehensive guide that takes readers on a mouthwatering adventure through the art of baking cookies. This book is designed to inspire and empower both novice and experienced bakers to embrace the joy of creating delicious homemade cookies every day. With a focus on simplicity and approachability, this book covers a wide range of cookie recipes, from classic favorites like chocolate chip and sugar cookies to unique and creative creations like lemon poppy seed and almond crescent cookies. Each recipe is accompanied by detailed instructions, tips, and variations to

suit different tastes and preferences. But *From Scratch* goes beyond just providing recipes. It dives into the essential techniques and principles that underpin successful cookie baking, ensuring that readers understand the whys behind each step. From selecting the right ingredients and mastering different mixing methods to understanding the impact of temperature and baking time, this book equips readers with the knowledge they need to achieve perfect cookies every time. Beyond the recipes and techniques, *From Scratch* also explores the joy of sharing homemade cookies with loved ones and the importance of creating lasting memories in the kitchen. It encourages readers to embrace their creativity, experiment with flavors, and even develop their own cookie recipes, providing guidance and encouragement along the way. Throughout the book, stunning photography showcases the beauty of each cookie, inspiring readers to unleash their inner bakers and create visually appealing treats. The book also includes helpful tips for troubleshooting common baking issues, ensuring that even the most novice bakers can overcome challenges and achieve baking success. Whether you're a passionate home baker or someone who has never baked a cookie before, *From Scratch: A Journey into the World of Everyday Cookies* is your go-to guide for creating delicious, homemade cookies that will delight family and friends. So grab your apron, preheat the oven, and embark on a cookie-baking adventure that will fill your home with warmth, sweetness, and the aroma of freshly baked goodness.

how to make homemade cookies: *Mom's Big Book of Cookies* Lauren Chattman, 2010
Hundreds of choices to satisfy the most discriminating cookie eaters - kids! Think you don't have time to bake from scratch? In *Mom's Big Book of Cookies*, Lauren Chattman shows you how easy it is to make homemade cookies for your family, with 200 fabulous cookie recipes that your kids (and everyone else in the family) will eagerly devour. As a former professional pastry chef, Chattman knows what it takes to produce high-quality baked goods, but as a mother of two she is realistic about how much time moms have for baking. All the recipes in this book are easy to follow, and all have been taste-tested and given a big thumbs-up by Chattman's own children and their friends and schoolmates. Featuring both kid-friendly flavors and more sophisticated options for adults, these recipes will get you through any number of occasions that scream out for cookies, such as birthday parties, holidays, school bake sales, or bad-weather days when everyone is stuck in the house and looking for something fun to do. Written by a mom for moms and featuring a user-friendly lay-flat binding, *Mom's Big Book of Cookies* also gives you lots of useful tips to ensure cookie-baking success and suggests ways to involve your kids in the cookie-making process. With each recipe more delicious-sounding than the last, you are sure to find dozens of wholesome treats that will soon become family favorites.

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Classic Cookies, Crazy Easy Everybody loves hot cookies fresh out of the oven. *The Easy Homemade Cookie Cookbook* is for baked-treat lovers everywhere. Bursting with irresistible American classics—including old-fashioned chocolate chip cookies, thin mints, and pumpkin spice shortbread—this cookie cookbook is filled with easy-to-follow recipes that are fantastic for new and experienced bakers alike. *The Easy Homemade Cookie Cookbook* includes: 150 Beloved Recipes—From sugar cookies and oatmeal cream pies to gingerbread men and turtle bars, learn to make familiar treats everyone will love. Sweet Tips—This cookie cookbook makes things simple with guides to stocking your kitchen, helpful tools, and baking basics. Yummy Tricks—Learn how to really mix things up with advice for handling leftovers, varying recipes, and using substitutes. It's easy to satisfy your sweet tooth—and everybody else's—with *The Easy Homemade Cookie Cookbook*.

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Live Well Bake Cookies shares 75 foolproof, delicious recipes that can make anyone an expert baker.

how to make homemade cookies: *Mason Jar Cookie Recipes: Quick, Delicious, Inexpensive DIY Gifts in Jars* Jamie Matthews, Make Quick, Delicious, Inexpensive Mason Jar Cookie Recipes
Gift giving has never been this much fun and so easy. And when you prepare your mason jar cookie recipes, your family and friends will be delighted with these thoughtful gifts straight from your own kitchen. Cookie mixes in jars make tasteful gifts for any occasion, such as

birthdays, holidays, weddings and housewarming parties. The best part is you can go to your local store or shopping mart and gather all your favorite sweets and chocolates to make as many gifts in jars as you need. Most of these jars make fun, gift ideas under 10 dollars. Have fun and be creative! This book contains proven cookie recipes and tips on how you can make quick, easy and personal gifts in jars. I will provide you with everything you need to know from tools, ingredients, and recipes to storage.

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how to make homemade cookies: The Christmas Cookie Cookbook Ann Pearlman, Mary Beth Bayer, 2010-10-26 From the author of The Christmas Cookie Club, a collection of delicious cookie recipes and a guide on how to start your very own Christmas Cookie Club. The Christmas Cookie Cookbook is the perfect holiday present or year-round companion for new and seasoned bakers alike. Packed with tips, anecdotes, and tons of recipes, this cookbook is a must-have for anyone looking for a new holiday tradition or simply a fresh way to spread holiday cheer throughout

the year. For almost twenty years, Ann Pearlman and a dozen of her friends have been in a Christmas Cookie Club founded by Marybeth Bayer. Every year at the same time, they gather at her house to exchange cookies, wine, and laughs. Now, with *The Christmas Cookie Cookbook*, Ann shows readers how to start a club of their own. The recipes and the inspiration are all here in one complete guide for cookie club hopefuls. With a diverse selection of not only Christmas cookies, but Chanukah and Ramadan cookies too, there's a treat in here for everyone!

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Focuses on creating nutritious lunches, snacks, and desserts following the dietary guidelines. Includes recipes.

how to make homemade cookies: Ice Cream Maker: 22 Ice Cream Recipes For Your Home Ice Cream Maker Machine Recipe This, Ice Cream Maker 22 Ice Cream Recipes For Your Home Ice Cream Maker Machine The authors of this ice cream maker ebook shares with you the favourite ice cream maker recipes that they have developed during the first six months of owning an Italian ice cream maker machine. Featuring classics such as chocolate ice cream, banana ice cream, strawberry ice cream, raspberry ripple ice cream along with milkshake adaptations. On top of this they have also shared some delicious ice cream maker recipes that have been adapted from their favourite brands of chocolate. So look forward to oreo ice cream, rolo ice cream, caramel chew chew and so many others. Discover just how many different ice cream maker recipes there are and this makes an excellent starting point for when you have an ice cream maker, but can't quite decide what to make in it!

how to make homemade cookies: Feeding You Lies Vani Hari, 2020-02-18 This follow-up to New York Times bestseller *The Food Babe Way* exposes the lies we've been told about our food--and takes readers on a journey to find healthy options. There's so much confusion about what to eat. Are you jumping from diet to diet and nothing seems to work? Are you sick of seeing contradictory health advice from experts? Just like the tobacco industry lied to us about the dangers of cigarettes, the same untruths, cover-ups, and deceptive practices are occurring in the food industry. Vani Hari, aka The Food Babe, blows the lid off the lies we've been fed about the food we eat--lies about its nutrient value, effects on our health, label information, and even the very science we base our food choices on. You'll discover:

- How nutrition research is manipulated by food company funded experts
- How to spot fake news generated by Big Food
- The tricks food companies use to make their food addictive
- Why labels like all natural and non-GMO aren't what they seem and how to identify the healthiest food
- Food marketing hoaxes that persuade us into buying junk food disguised as health food

Vani guides you through a 48-hour Toxin Takedown to rid your pantry, and your body, of harmful chemicals--a quick and easy plan that anyone can do. A blueprint for living your life without preservatives, artificial sweeteners, additives, food dyes, or fillers, eating foods that truly nourish you and support your health, *Feeding You Lies* is the first step on a new path of truth in eating--and a journey to your best health ever.

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Everyone loves cookies. *Cookie: A Love Story: Fun Facts, Delicious Stories, Fascinating History, Tasty Recipes, and More About Our Most Beloved Treat* is a glorious celebration of America's favorite treat, a gleeful look at its history, impact, meaning, and deliciousness, filled with mouth-watering anecdotes and stories that will satisfy in a way no other book can. Special recipes, anecdotes, and everything you ever wanted to know about cookies are in its pages. Learn about the most popular cookie, the woman who invented the chocolate chip cookie, why we eat cookies at Christmas, when cookies were invented, how cookies impact elections, why Girl Scouts sell cookies and more. This romp through the cookie's past and its place in our lives today is a delicious sampler of the delights the cookie has given us.

how to make homemade cookies: Cookie Table, The Alice Crosetto, 2023 All you need is love and cookies. Everyone loves cookies, but the people of the Steel Valley take this love to another level. Nowhere else in America will you behold hundreds--or even thousands--of cookies piled high

for events of all kinds. This is the regionally famous cookie table. But how did this tradition start? Why do residents of the Pittsburgh and Youngstown areas always create them not just for weddings but for birthdays, graduations, fundraisers, community events, and so much more? How did this once quaint local custom become a social media phenomenon? How are the cookies made, and how is a cookie table organized? Join author and cookie table enthusiast Alice Crosetto on a delectable journey through this beloved Steel Valley tradition.

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how to make homemade cookies: Think with Your Taste Buds Martha Cheves, Lillian Mort, 2011-07-19 We all have different favorite tastes. Some of us love chocolate, while others aren't fans of it. Some of us think strawberries are the greatest fruit, while some of us argue that peaches are far tastier. All these different tastes can make it hard to create a dessert that everyone will love, including the cook! But this won't be a problem anymoreMartha A. Cheves and Lillian Mort have teamed up to teach you how to Think With Your Taste Buds. It's easier than you might think to make substitutions; they'll show you how to make it work. With these friends' helpful suggestions and simple recipes, you'll be on your way to creating desserts that please many palatesand they won't take too much time! Have fun in the kitchen with Martha and Lillian as they share stories behind the recipes and their secrets, and enjoy thinking with your taste buds and making every recipe your own!

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one needs to put retired molds back where they belong -- off walls and out of cupboards, and into action in our kitchens. -- Julia Usher, author, *Cookie Swap*, and Director, International Association of Culinary Professionals Cookie molds are lovely to admire but often end up as part of your kitchen decor rather than as a baking tool. 'Baking with Cookie Molds' will inspire you to use those molds as they were intended -- to create strikingly beautiful cookies -- and shows that those cookies can be delicious as well! Detailed instructions and photographs make it feel like the author is right there in your kitchen, baking alongside you and guiding you through each step. -- Christina Banner, author, *How to Build a Gingerbread House* A must read for novice and avid bakers! Anne's story and vast knowledge of cookie molds keeps you entertained from beginning to end. -- Karen Giamalva, President and CEO, LetsBakeCookies.com Friendly, warm, and inviting. -- Ken Hamilton, *The Springerle Baker* A 'honey' of a collection of old and new secrets for shaping edible-art cookies -- with less effort and more success. Will do much to keep this tradition alive! -- Gene Wilson, *HOBİ Cookie Molds*

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