**FAQ**

**Cookie FAQs**

[Where can I buy Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseOne)

Visit [girlscoutcookies.org](http://girlscoutcookies.org/) for information on where to buy Girl Scout Cookies, and visit your local council website to find booth sales in your area and to learn more about how the Girl Scout Cookie Program helps girls learn and grow.

[Does ABC Bakers offer any vegan ingredient or Gluten-Free cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseTwo)

Yes, we have five cookies made with vegan ingredients: Girl Scout S'mores®, Lemonades®, Toast-Yay!™, Thin Mints and Peanut Butter Patties®. We also offer the Gluten-Free Caramel Chocolate Chip Girl Scout Cookie, which is certified by the Gluten Free Certification Organization, produced in a dedicated gluten-free facility, and meets a 10 parts per million standard set by the Gluten Free Certification Organization.

While our cookies made with vegan ingredients do not contain any animal product ingredients, they may be produced on equipment that is also used to produce items containing dairy ingredients.

[How do you look out for people who have food allergies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseThree)

Per FDA regulations, ABC Bakers is required to use product-specific allergen labeling, which enables the allergy-affected consumer to make an informed decision based on information specific to that particular product. For more information, please visit the FALCPA webpage posted by the [U.S. Food & Drug Administration](https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/Allergens/ucm106187.htm)

In addition, we call out all allergens on order cards, our web site and provide extra information in regards to other allergens that may be used in our bakeries. ABC Bakers is committed to a proactive approach to effectively managing allergens in our bakeries and products

[Do all Girl Scout Cookies contain milk?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseFour)

No, ABC Baker's Peanut Butter Patties®, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!™ Lemonades® and S’mores® do not contain a milk ingredient. However, they may be produced on equipment that is also used to produce items containing dairy ingredients.

[How do you monitor the quality of your ingredients?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseFive)

Our bakery has written standards for each process and cookie variety, and we select the finest possible ingredients, partnering with vendors based on a specific list of criteria and specifications. Vendors are required to provide a Certificate of Analysis with every shipment of incoming raw materials.

In addition, prior to raw materials being unloaded into bulk storage units such as flour silos, a sample of the incoming raw material is tested in our Quality Assurance (QA) laboratories. In production, products are pulled systematically by QA personnel and tested to verify conformance to standards. We have developed many of the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) that have been implemented by the biscuit and cracker manufacturing industry, including:

* State-of-the-art electronic metal detectors on all lines
* Automated processes that minimize direct employee contact with product
* Color coding system for allergen controls
* Screening systems in storage units for bulk ingredients, including water
* Employee uniforms made of polished cotton material resistant to adherence of extraneous materials
* Blower units for removing extraneous materials from clothing prior to entering mixing, baking, and packaging areas of bakery
* Hairnets and beard covers for full head covering
* On-line check-weighers

[Do you have sugar free Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseSix)

No, while we have investigated the market for a sugar free item, demand in this niche is still too small for the Girl Scout Cookie Program. We are required to provide the amount of carbohydrates and sugars in grams on our nutrition label. Total carbohydrates on the label includes sugars, dietary fiber and other carbohydrates.

[Do you use GMOs in your Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseSeven)

Yes, ABC Bakers uses genetically engineered (GE) ingredients, often referred to as GMO’s. Food produced from GE plants meet the same nutritional and food safety standards as foods derived from non GE plants. There is no evidence that GE plants are not safe or unhealthy. In the United States, the following crops have had their GE counterparts evaluated and approved for production and could potential be found in our products; Corn, Soybeans, Canola, Sugarbeets. For more information on the safety and approval of GE food, please see the [FDA’s website](https://www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/GEPlants/default.htm)

[What kind of Kosher Certification do your Girl Scout Cookies carry?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseEight)

All ABC Girl Scout Cookies carry the Circle UD Kosher certification. Circle U stands for Orthodox Union, one of the larger organizations that provides kosher certification. The “D” included in the symbol signifies that the product contains dairy ingredients or is produced on equipment that may be used to produce items containing dairy ingredients.

[Why do you use palm oil in your Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseNine)

ABC Bakers is aware of and sensitive to concerns about the sustainability of palm oil production. In our effort to eliminate trans fats from our cookies, we have evaluated a number of alternatives to partially hydrogenated soybean oil. To maintain product quality, we determined that palm oil was our best alternative.

As an official member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), we source our palm oil exclusively from members of the RSPO and we support the efforts of the RSPO to encourage sustainable farming practices. ABC Bakers will continue to work with our vendors and the RSPO to encourage the development of an economically and logistically feasible supply chain for 100% sustainable palm oil, and we will transition our oil once the supply is reliably available. We also continually evaluates other alternative oils. Should a better alternative emerge, we will transition from palm oil.

[What is your position on sustainable cocoa farming?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseTen)

ABC Bakers sources most of our cocoa from companies who are members of the World Cocoa Foundation. These companies provide support to cocoa farmers and their families worldwide through programs that help raise farmer incomes, encourage sustainable cocoa farming and strengthen communities.

[Do Girl Scout Cookies have expiration dates?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseFifteen)

All of our Girl Scout Cookies have a “Use or Freeze Before” date on each package that indicates the time frame that our cookies will taste best.

[Why do the Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chips in my area cost more than the other Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseSixteen)

As in the retail market, gluten-free cookies are priced higher than other cookies because they cost more to produce, and to maintain a gluten-free facility. In addition, each council sets their own pricing for Girl Scout Cookies so you may find that pricing will vary from council to council.

[Where can I buy the Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip Girl Scout Cookies?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseSeventeen)

Please visit [ABC Bakers Choice section of the website](https://abcbakers.com/abc-bakers/abc-bakers-choice-cookies/) to see the ABC councils with the Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie.

**Packaging FAQs**

[How many packages are in a case?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseEleven)

Each case of cookies contains 12 packages.

[Is the packaging for ABC’s cookie recyclable?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseTwelve)

Our folding cartons, cookie trays, and shipping cases are recyclable. However, local recycling services vary on what materials they will accept. Please check with your local service.

[Why are three (Girl Scout S'mores®, Lemonades®, and Toast-Yay!™) of the eight cookie varieties offered by ABC Bakers in a tray with film overwrap - no carton?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseNineteen)

ABC Bakers is delighted to be able to offer this type of cookie packaging which saves millions of cartons by ensuring a more sustainable approach to packaging on the three unique cookie items that we offer.

[Will all nine of ABC Bakers Girl Scout Cookies be offered in a tray with film overwrap (no carton) in the future?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/" \l "collapseFourteen)

At this time ABC bakers is not planning to convert all of our items to tray with film overwrap. However, we will continue to look for ways to improve the product and packaging that we offer while supporting the Girl Scout brand.

[I noticed the ABC Bakers allergen statement has changed – did they make a change to the cookie recipe or manufacturing process?](https://abcbakers.com/faqs/#collapseEighteen)

ABC Bakers has not made any recipe changes from last season, and its manufacturing processes remain the same. Because the FDA’s labeling updates were mandated to go into effect this season, our regulatory team added the optional "may contain" statements to all packages to ensure transparency about any allergens that may be present in the bakery where your favorite Girl Scout Cookies are baked.