12 Essential Holiday Cookie Decorating Supplies

The *Real Simple* food department cut, sprinkled, and piped its way through 125 decorating products. These 12 were the sweetest.

**Cookie Cutters**

Sturdy and rustproof, copper cutters can withstand even your preschooler’s rough handling and will last for years.

**To buy:** Large snowflake, snowman, and candy cane, $8 each, williams-sonoma.com. Mitten, tree, ornament, and small snowflake, $13 to $14 each, coppergifts.com.

For cookie decorating ideas using these products, see the finished cookies and watch the how-to videos.

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**Cookie Icing**

Forget messing with egg whites and piping bags. This brilliant product comes in an easy-squeeze tube and dries smooth and hard, like royal icing.

**To buy:** Betty Crocker Cookie Icing, available in 10 saturated colors, $3 for 7 ounces, at supermarkets.
**Fine Sanding Sugar**

If red and green seems more ho-hum than ho-ho-ho, opt for these sparkly sugars, which come in less traditional shades, like baby blue and powder pink.

**To buy:** India Tree Pastel Sanding Sugars, available in 6 colors, $5.50 for 3.5 ounces, cheftools.com.
Coarse Sanding Sugar
These large, ultrabright crystals guarantee that your creations will shine at the cookie swap.

To buy: India Tree Sparkling Sugars, available in 10 colors, $5 for 3.5 ounces, cheftools.com.

Colored Sprinkles
Plant-based dyes (think beet juice and turmeric) create these vibrant shades.

To buy: India Tree Nature’s Colors Sprinkles, available in 7 varieties, $6 for 2.7 ounces, cheftools.com and natural-food stores.
Holly Sprinkles
Short on time? A couple of shakes of this pairing and the decorating is done.

To buy: Betty Crocker Hollyberry Decors, $3 for 6 ounces, at super-markets.
Nonpareils
From snowy white to hot pink, the variety of colors offered by this confectionery giant can’t be beat.

To buy: CK Products LLC Non-Pareils, available in 11 colors, $2 for 4 ounces, countrykitchensa.com.

Sugar Pearls
These lustrous beads will come in handy for Valentine’s Day and Easter, too.

To buy: Wilton Sugar Pearls, available in 6 colors, $5 for 5 ounces, wilton.com and craft stores.
Small Sugar Snowflakes
When clustered together, these icy bursts are particularly pretty.

To buy: India Tree Nature’s Colors Snowflakes, $6 for 1.7 ounces, cheftools.com and natural-food stores.
**Large Sugar Snowflakes**
These stunners are almost as intricate as real flakes—but have more staying power.

**To buy:** Copper Gifts Snowflake Sugar Decorations, $4 for 16, coppergifts.com.

**Sugar Cardinals**
Even the decorating-challenged can add instant wow to cookies or a gingerbread house with this lively flock.

**To buy:** Fancy Flours Sugar Cardinals*, $7.50 for 12, fancyflours.com.

*Temporarily out of stock—please check back later.
Sugar Disks
Extra-large buttons add graphic punch to cookies and cupcakes.

To buy: Confectionery House Christmas Quins, $3 for 2.5 ounces, confectioneryhouse.com.
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