

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](#).



Yasu + Junko

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.



walmart.com

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.



Yasu + Junko

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.



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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.

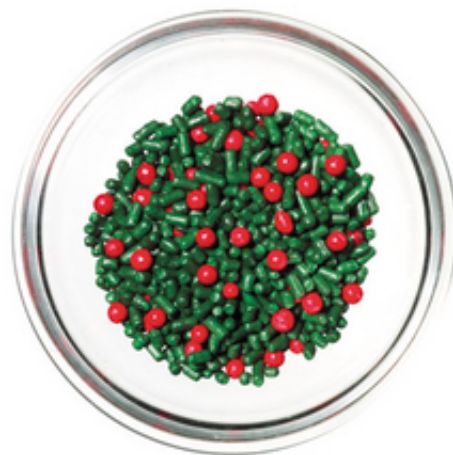


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Holly Sprinkles

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.



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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.



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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.

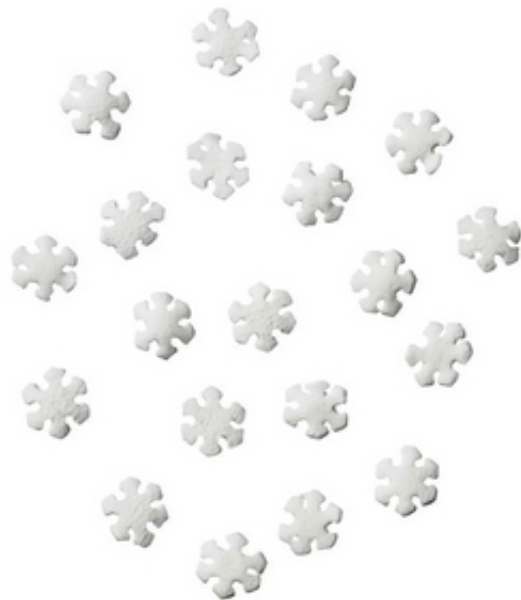


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Small Sugar Snowflakes

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.



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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.



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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.



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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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