

REAL SIMPLE

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plus the best: cookie dough

comfortable shoes

winter coats



taste test



The Cookie-Dough Bake-Off

Somebody had to sample all the **ready-to-bake chocolate-chip cookies** on the market and find the best ones. *Real Simple's* testers made the sacrifice

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taste test | COOKIE DOUGH



The Cookie Challenge

In the old days, before cookie dough showed up in things like ice cream, if you wanted freshly baked chocolate-chip cookies, you actually had to measure and mix ingredients. Then came slice-and-bake logs. Now, in some cases, there's no need even to slice—just place the preshaped dough on a baking sheet; bake as few or as many as you want. *Real Simple* gathered more than 20 boxes, rolls, and tubs of refrigerated and frozen ready-to-bake cookie dough and found three that could almost pass for homemade.

Tip

These cookies need no embellishment, but if you're in the mood for some fabulous excess, drizzle them with melted white, milk, or dark chocolate or crumble them over ice cream or pudding.



600 LB. GORILLAS CHOCOLATE CHIP

The closest to made-from-scratch, hands down. The rich, buttery flavor and soft, chewy consistency—even when the cookies were cool—drew raves. Unlike most brands, this one has no trans fats or preservatives. **DETAILS:** \$4 for 18 frozen preshaped cookies. Available at BJ's Wholesale Clubs (877-368-4422 or www.600lbgorillas.com for store locations).



PILLSBURY CHOCOLATE CHUNK

These cookies had the perfect ratio of chocolate to cookie. Testers found them to be almost—but not quite—too sweet. They cooled to a crisp, making them great for dunking. **DETAILS:** \$3.20 for a refrigerated 18-ounce log. Available at supermarkets nationwide.



NESTLÉ TOLLHOUSE ULTIMATES CHOCOLATE CHIP LOVERS

Packed with both chips and larger chunks, these cookies barely had enough batter to hold the chocolate together. "Goopy but without that underbaked taste," one tester said. An excellent choice for chocoholics. **DETAILS:** \$3.20 for a refrigerated block of 12 preshaped cookies. Available at supermarkets nationwide.