

Liquorice Allsorts

From the sweeties.net wiki

Liquorice Allsorts are a British sweet mixture: layered liquorice, coconut rolls and jelly buttons, all in one bag. They were first made in Sheffield.

What is in them

Liquorice Allsorts are made from liquorice, sugar, coconut, aniseed jelly, fruit flavourings and gelatine. The mix is exactly what the name promises: all sorts of shapes, colours and textures in one bag, from layered liquorice to coconut rolls and aniseed jellies. One of the pieces in the modern Bassett's mix is a small liquorice figure shaped like the brand's mascot, Bertie Bassett.

Because they contain gelatine, traditional Liquorice Allsorts are not suitable for vegetarians. Always check the ingredients and allergy information for the particular brand you buy.

The dropped tray

Liquorice Allsorts were first produced by Geo. Bassett and Co of Sheffield. The story goes that in 1899 Charlie Thompson, a Bassett's salesman, tripped and dropped a tray of samples while showing them to a client in Leicester, mixing up the different sweets. As he scrambled to sort them out, the client was taken with the jumble, and Bassett's began making the sweets as an assortment. The sweets he dropped are said to have been chips, rocks, buttons, nuggets, plugs and twists. The story is usually told with a word of caution: the sources describe it as what supposedly happened. For the full history of the firm, see [George Bassett, the liquorice allsorts man](#).

Bertie Bassett

In 1926 Bassett's created Bertie Bassett, a figure made of allsorts, who has become part of British popular culture. The first Bertie was put together by an advertising copywriter, Frank Regan, from the sweets and some pipe cleaners.

Allsorts around the world

Liquorice Allsorts are now made by many companies around the world. They are most popular in Europe, especially Britain and the Netherlands, where they are known as Engelse drop, English liquorice. In Scandinavia they are Engelsk konfekt, in Finland englanninlakritsi, and a South African maker, Beacon, produces large quantities for export.

Variations

Bassett's has also made allsorts without any liquorice at all. Fruit Allsorts use fruit flavours, and Dessert Allsorts have flavours such as apple tart and lemon cheesecake, keeping the familiar shapes and textures. We sell Liquorice Allsorts in our pick and mix, and the sweet card opens up to show the full ingredients and allergens. For more liquorice sweets, see [Pontefract cakes](#).

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