

# Rhubarb and custard sweets

From the sweeties.net wiki

Rhubarb and custard sweets are a boiled sweet of the British sweet shop: little two tone sweets, one side rhubarb, the other custard.

## What they are

A rhubarb and custard sweet is a boiled sweet with two flavours and two colours. One half has a sharp, fruity rhubarb flavour; the other has a smooth, creamy custard flavour. The sweets we sell in our pick and mix are exactly that: two tone boiled sweets, sharp rhubarb and smooth custard.

## Why rhubarb and custard?

The sweet is named after a British pairing. In Britain, rhubarb stalks are usually stewed with sugar and used in pies, tarts and crumbles, and rhubarb is also combined with custard or whipped cream to make a rhubarb fool. Rhubarb has a strong, tart taste.

Rhubarb is a vegetable, but it is often used like a fruit. Only the stalks are eaten: the large leaves contain high levels of oxalic acid, which makes them poisonous. In the United Kingdom, the first rhubarb of the year is harvested by candlelight in dark forcing sheds, which produces sweeter, more tender stalks, and many of these sheds are in the Rhubarb Triangle in Yorkshire, between Wakefield, Leeds and Morley.

## Who makes them

Rhubarb and custard sweets are made by a number of traditional sweet makers. One of them is Stockley's, founded in Lancashire in 1918 by Malcolm Stockley on his return from the First World War. The firm is still privately owned, makes its sweets in small batches by hand, and lists rhubarb and custard among its traditional sweets, alongside pear drops, mint humbugs and chocolate limes.

The flavour has spread beyond the boiled sweet, too. Swizzels, the makers of Love Hearts, have made a rhubarb and custard version of their Drumstick Squashies: see [Drumstick lollies](#).

## More boiled sweets

Rhubarb and custard sit alongside other sweet shop boiled sweets such as pear drops, kola cubes and pineapple chunks, all of which we sell: see [pear drops](#), [kola cubes](#) and [pineapple chunks](#). For how boiled sweets are made, see [how are boiled sweets made?](#)

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