

How are jelly babies made?

From the sweeties.net wiki

Jelly babies are soft sugar jelly sweets in the shape of plump babies, sold in a variety of colours. Like most gummy sweets, they are set with gelatine, and they are shaped in trays of starch.

What goes in

A published ingredients list for a 400 g carton of Bassett's Jelly Babies gives: sugar, glucose syrup, water, gelatine, concentrated fruit juices, citric acid, flavourings, and colours from plant sources such as anthocyanins, paprika extract and curcumin. Bassett's changed its Jelly Babies to use only natural colours and ingredients in September 2007: see [natural colours in sweets](#)

How they are made

1. **Cook the jelly.** The sugar, glucose syrup, water and gelatine are cooked into a hot jelly, with the fruit juices, acid, flavours and colours added.
2. **Stamp the babies.** Baby shaped hollows are pressed into trays of starch, the method a starch mogul mechanises: see [what is starch moulding?](#)
3. **Fill.** The hot jelly is poured into the hollows and left to set.
4. **Release.** The set babies are lifted out of the starch. The starch helps them release from the mould, and in Britain some of it is left on, which is the dusty coat you see: see [why are jelly babies covered in powder?](#) Jelly babies made in Australia generally lack this coating.

Shapes and names

For most of their history, every jelly baby was the same shape whatever its colour. Different shapes and names were introduced around 1989: see [do jelly babies have names?](#)

A short history

Jelly babies were invented in 1864 by an Austrian immigrant working at Fryers of Lancashire, and first sold as Unclaimed Babies. Bassett's of Sheffield was producing them by 1918, as Peace Babies, to mark the end of the First World War. Production stopped during the Second World War because of wartime shortages, and they were relaunched as Jelly Babies in 1953: see [what were jelly babies originally called?](#)

Diet

Because they contain gelatine, classic jelly babies are not vegetarian or vegan: see [are Jelly Babies vegetarian?](#)

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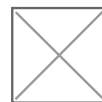
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