

Clove rock

From the sweeties.net wiki

Clove rock is a hard boiled sweet with the warm, spicy taste of cloves. Crilly's Clove Rocks, recorded by Open Food Facts in a 100 g bag, are one example.

What is in it

Crilly's Clove Rocks, as recorded by Open Food Facts. Sugar, glucose syrup, water, beetroot red as the colour, and flavouring. The label warns that the sweets may contain nuts, milk, soya and gluten.

There is no clove in the list. The clove taste comes from flavouring, and the colour from beetroot red: see [how are sweets flavoured?](#)

What cloves are

Cloves are the dried, aromatic flower buds of a tree, *Syzygium aromaticum*. The buds start pale, turn green, then bright red when they are ready to pick. The tree is native to the Maluku Islands of Indonesia, and until the colonial era cloves grew on only a few islands there, the Spice Islands, including Ternate and Tidore. Chinese merchants were sailing there to trade for cloves by the time of the Yuan dynasty, between 1271 and 1368.

Why cloves taste medicinal

A major part of the taste of cloves comes from one chemical, eugenol. Clove oil has long been used in traditional medicine, mainly for dental emergencies, and there is evidence that clove oil containing eugenol helps with toothache. Cloves also flavour toothpaste, soaps and cosmetics.

That warm, medicinal taste puts clove rock alongside other old British sweets for cold days: see [cough candy](#), [winter mixture](#) and [Coltsfoot Rock](#)

Safety

Clove rock is a hard sweet, and the NHS says not to give young children hard foods such as boiled sweets, because of the risk of choking: see [hard sweets and young children](#)

In our pick and mix

We do not sell clove rock, but we do sell [SW038](#), another traditional spiced sweet. Each card opens up to show the full ingredients and allergens for the sweets we actually stock.

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100 pts = 1 tree

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