

Tom Thumb drops

From the sweeties.net wiki

Tom Thumb Drops are tiny boiled sweets with a crunchy sugar coating. The UK retailer Sweets and Candy describes them as tiny, sugar coated boiled sweets bursting with fruity flavour, and lists them as suitable for vegetarians.

What is in them

Tom Thumb Drops, as listed by Sweets and Candy. Sugar, glucose syrup marked as containing sulphites, citric acid, flavouring, and the colours E100, E102, E141, E153 and E163.

Like other boiled sweets, they are made by boiling sugar and glucose syrup until almost no water is left, then shaping the hot mixture before it sets hard: see [how are boiled sweets made?](#)

The name

Tom Thumb Drops share their name with Tom Thumb, the hero of English folklore who was no bigger than his father's thumb. The History of Tom Thumb, printed in London in 1621, is the first known fairy tale printed in English, and its hero's adventures include being swallowed by a cow and tangling with giants.

Two allergy points

- **Sulphites.** The recipe marks its glucose syrup as containing sulphites. Sulphur dioxide and sulphites are one of the 14 major allergens, and must be declared when present at more than 10 mg per kg. Anyone sensitive to sulphites should check: see [the 14 allergens explained for sweets](#)
- **A warning colour.** Tartrazine, E102, is one of the six colours that must carry the warning may have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children, and the listing shows it: see [the Southampton six colours](#)

The other colours are curcumin (E100), copper chlorophyll (E141), vegetable carbon (E153) and anthocyanins (E163).

Small and hard

Tom Thumb Drops are small, hard sweets, 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 Tom Thumb Drops, but we do sell other traditional boiled sweets, such as [SW033](#) and [SW035](#). Each card opens up to show the full ingredients and allergens for the sweets we actually stock.

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