

cookies with right kind of fat

Puff LP cookies  
flatter and  
like. What am I

The kinds of sugar, flour and fat you use when baking all determine whether your cookies will turn out flat and crisp, puffy and cake-like, or dense and chewy.

In general, white sugar yields crispy cookies, while brown sugar and honey absorb moisture from the air, causing the baked cookies to turn soft as they stand. Many recipes call for a combination of white and brown sugars to produce a result that is not too crunchy and not too chewy.

Your choice of flour also makes a difference. A flour that is relatively high in protein (such as a national brand all-purpose flour, or a bread flour) will absorb liquid in the dough and yield a drier, crisper cookie. Cake or pastry flour, on the other hand, or a low-protein all-purpose flour will yield a more tender result. This is because liquid that isn't absorbed by the flour heats up and turns into steam during baking, producing a puffy, soft cookie.

The kind of fat you use helps determine how much your cook-



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ie spreads as it bakes. Butter melts easily; if this is the prima-

ry fat in a cookie, the dough will spread on the cookie sheet as the butter melts, producing a flat, thin, crispy baked cookie.

Shrinking, on the other hand, contains less water than butter, and will not melt as quickly, so dough holds its shape better and spreads less in the oven. Again, many recipes call for a combination of shortening and butter to achieve the desired texture and flavor.

You may need to experiment with the ingredients in your own recipe to get the results you like best.

**Q:** What is the best way to remove wallpaper?

**A:** Wallpaper has a stubborn reputation, but a little patience and the right tools will remove most papers without a fight. Sometimes the wall is a big-

ger problem.

Wallboard that was not primed and coated before wallpaper was applied will lose its paper facing when the wallpaper is soaked and removed. In this case, the resulting damage can be very difficult to repair.

If you don't know whether your wallboard was coated, try removing a small section of wall-paper in an inconspicuous area.

If the surface behind the paper is light grayish-brown, it likely has not been primed. You'll want to consult with a professional before going any further.

If you determine that your walls won't be irreparably damaged by wallpaper removal, begin with the simplest techniques and move to stronger measures as necessary.

Prepare the room by clearing out the furniture and turning off the power. Cover the floor with a sheet of plastic, secure the plastic to the baseboards with masking tape, then cover with a drop cloth.

Next, starting with a test section, apply very hot water to soften the paper's adhesive glue. Mist it on from a 2-gallon garden sprayer in thin, even coats.

walls lightly with a long-handled wire brush) before spraying so the water will penetrate behind the paper.

Once the section of wallpaper is soaked, scratch it with a fingernail. If it comes off easily, it is ready to scrape. If not, respray the surface and wait.

Working from top to bottom, use a wallpaper scraper to remove the paper. Continue around the room, then sponge away the remaining glue and wipe everything dry.

If your test section won't come off — perhaps there are several layers of very old paper — try a more aggressive method. Consider using a steamer, which can be rented from a hardware store for about \$40 per day, instead of a sprayer. It will produce steam from a hot plate and force moisture through the paper.

Lightly sand before steaming so the water can penetrate more easily. Then scrape as instructed above

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