

# Simple steps to making a holiday gingerbread house with your kids

The holidays are all about spending time with family and eating delicious and decadent treats. Building a gingerbread house is a great way to combine both things together. So get sticky little hands and fingers working on making gumdrop doors and licorice chimneys and make holiday memories that will last a lifetime.



## STEP 1

Buy a plain, undecorated gingerbread house from your local grocery store. You may be able to find some unconventional gingerbread houses in a craft store if you're looking for something a little different.

## STEP 2

Fill up a few plastic bags with icing in the colour of your choice to create the cozy illusion of snow and piping around your gingerbread house. Cut one corner of the bag and show your kids how to squeeze the bag (which is secured on the other end to avoid leakage) to push out lines of icing to be placed strategically around the house.



## STEP 3

This is where you can start to get really creative. Use different kinds of candy and chocolate bits, preferably the type that lasts for a long time, to decorate your house. You can "glue" on the bits with a little bit of icing on one end, and then gentle pressure as you attach to them to the house. Get colourful and experiment with different sizes, textures and shades. You can even have a themed gingerbread house, like an all-pink house if that's your daughter's favourite colour, or maybe a musical gingerbread house if your kids play instruments.

## STEP 4

Leave your gingerbread house in the fridge or somewhere cool for a couple of hours to set. Then put it out on display for friends and family when they visit and let your kids proudly describe the process of making it.



## Tips for making your gingerbread house

- Place pretzel sticks, licorice twists, candy canes or even wafer cookies in a vertical row position around the perimeter to make a cozy fence around your gingerbread house. Remember to "glue" them on with frosting.
- Melt coloured candy in the microwave until it is in liquid form that you can then use to paint your house different colours. Use the melted remains of blue candy to paint windows or make a frozen pond in front of your gingerbread house.
- Use miniature gum drops or mini M&Ms to create the effect of a cobblestone pathway in front of the house.
- To create a festive, winter scene sprinkle confectioners' sugar or edible glitter on and around your gingerbread house.
- Want to set up a roaring fire inside your house? Use Tootsie Rolls for logs and throw in some orange and yellow candy corn as makeshift fire.

