



# Ginger Snaps!

So happy it's summer! Finally the sun has come out and chased away the clouds and rain. It's Rose Festival and the fleet is in. Portland is in a celebratory mood.

We at Gingerbread Traditions *love* to celebrate: birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc. This issue of *Ginger Snaps!* is dedicated to the craft of planning and hosting parties. I hope you enjoy it and pick up a few tips too. Also check our web site and FaceBook page for information or answers about gingerbread house building and decorating. We are renewing our commitment to our GTI blog which will be another resource for you to access helpful information.

From all of us at Gingerbread Traditions, enjoy celebrating summer!

Cheryl

Owner/CEO

## Great party themes with GTI products:

- ◆ Dress Up Party – cookie kit
- ◆ Pirate Party
- ◆ Princess Party with our Fairy Gazebo
- ◆ Halloween Party
- ◆ *Frozen* Party – snowflake cookie kits
- ◆ Tea Party– cookie kit
- ◆ 60s Party – groovy flower power cookie kit



## Creative decorations from your cupboard....

To create a beautifully decorated gingerbread house, look no further than your pantry or cupboard for quick and inexpensive decorations!

1. Cereal - Froot Loops® and Shredded Wheat. This is great for thatched roofs or hay bales at a rural home (see picture to left). Colorful Froot Loops® can add creative touches to pathways, walls and roofs.
2. Coconut - finely shredded or flaked. Coconut looks like snow and can be colored to make grass (see next issue for how-to info on coloring coconut).
3. Pretzel sticks - Make a fence, window frame, roof or wooden exterior using pretzels!





### A few of my favorite things....

Barb, our receptionist, inside sales rep, and all around office quarter-back, was asked about her favorite gingerbread and cookie decorating candies. Here's what she said:

**Sour Trim** in red, blue or green. I like to cut it in little squares and use them to decorate the roof. It makes the roof look shingled. It also makes really cute shutters around the windows.

**Pucker Ups®** and **Mini Chiclets®** - I use Pucker Ups® and small Chiclets® to cover the roof. They also make a fun walkway. Chiclets® also make a cute door.

**Candy corn®** is always fun to use as a border around the base that the house sits on. You can use the candy corn® (turned upside down) to look like outside light fixtures. You can also use candy corn® for the roof. My problem is I eat too much of it and never have enough to complete the roof.

*Let us know your favorite decorating treats, we love to hear how creative you can be. Also, show off and send pictures of your decorated houses! .*

**Yes, we're on Facebook!** – If you'd like updates about new products and reminders on seasonal orders "Like" or follow us on Facebook! We also post great design ideas from customers, so send us the photos of your houses!



Contact us:

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### Hosting a party –

Including a Gingerbread Traditions house or cookie kit with your birthday party theme is fun, creative and easy to host. With the products offered by GTI, you can complement your festive celebration with a crafty and delicious activity. As a bonus, your guests can take their project home (it's an activity and party favor all in one!).

To make your party a success, here are some tips to follow:

Ask your guests about food allergies. Our gingerbread has wheat flour and our sugar cookies have flour and eggs in them. In addition, various candies and icing may include soy, dairy, wheat, or egg. Each kit comes with a list of ingredients of the baked items and the candies. You can also find ingredient information on the Gingerbread Traditions web site at [www.gingerbreadtraditions.com](http://www.gingerbreadtraditions.com).

In deciding what to order, consider how you plan to lay out your table, how many people you're inviting plus their ages and skill levels. You should ask yourself these questions to help determine how much to purchase.

A) Assembled house or unassembled? Some children take pride in being the one to assemble their house. This does require extra time as the houses need to "set" before being decorated. If you do not have the extra time, or the children are not old enough to complete the task, you should purchase assembled houses.

B) Kits or candy in bulk? Each GTI kit comes with the candy portioned out for each party guest. If you purchase candy in bulk, you will want to provide small dishes for each candy or guest. We recommend 12-16 ounces of decorative candies per house and 3 – 4 ounces per cookie kit.

C) Pre-made icing or powdered mix? Kits come with an icing packet for each guest. If you would like to mix your own, you can order our powdered mix. To decorate with icing we recommend using a plastic decorator bag [Gingerbread Traditions sells plastic decorator bags (5 bags for \$1.50)] or you can use a freezer-grade zip type sandwich bag. To use the bag, cut the tip to make a small opening.

Order your GTI products several weeks in advance. When your package arrives, check to make sure there aren't any problems. If something is broken we can send a replacement, if there is time.

*Get more info on hosting parties in our next issue or on line at [www.gingerbreadtraditions.com](http://www.gingerbreadtraditions.com).*



### Create your own colored icing-

Want to make colored icing at home? Here's how to create a special color of icing for any party or family event.

1. Prepare (purchased or from scratch) your powdered icing. We do not recommend using frosting. Gingerbread Traditions sells powdered icing in two different sizes. It is easy to make: just add water.
2. Separate icing into bowls: one bowl per color.
3. Sparingly add food coloring to each bowl. Start with 2 drops of liquid food coloring then mix.
4. Add one drop at a time then mix to obtain the desired color and vibrancy.
5. Use a decorator's bag (or zip lock) to begin decorating your cookie or house.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** is National Gummy worm day. Think of the decorating opportunities!

