## Tips and Extras

- Toast the pecans. You could skip this, but then your cookies will taste like regret. A few minutes in a dry skillet wakes them up and makes everything taste 100% fancier than it actually is.
- Use parchment or a silicone mat. Unless you like chiseling cookies off the baking sheet like a pioneer woman without parchment paper, trust me on this one.
- Don't overmix the dough. This isn't a punishment—it's a cookie. Stir just until everything's cozy and combined. Overmixing makes tough cookies, and we're already tough enough.
- Pull them out when the edges are set but the centers still look a little soft. They'll finish baking on the pan while you stand there "sampling" a few more.
- Want pretty cookies? Hold back a few pecans and toffee bits to press into the tops right before baking. It's like putting on lipstick before running into your ex.
- Double the batch. Always. Whether you freeze half or eat them all in a stress-induced daze, future-you will thank past-you.

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- Add chocolate chips. Dark, milk, white—whatever you've got hiding in the back of the pantry. Toss in ½ cup for extra decadence, or more if you're trying to impress someone. Or punish them with sweetness. Your call.
- Bourbon-glazed pecans. Go full Southern and swap in bourbon-glazed pecans. It's like your cookie just got back from a weekend in New Orleans and refuses to shut up about it.
- Coconut flakes. Add ¼ to ½ cup of sweetened coconut for a little chewy texture and tropical flair. Your cookie just put on a caftan and sunglasses.
- Swap the butterscotch chips. Not a butterscotch fan? Use caramel bits, cinnamon chips, or chopped peanut butter cups. These cookies are easy—like Saturday-night television.
- Oatmeal twist. Sub ½ cup of the flour for quick oats to give them a heartier texture. Great if you want to pretend they're breakfast.
- Drizzle with white chocolate. Totally optional, completely extra, and highly recommended if you want your cookies to scream "Pinterest-worthy" without doing any actual work.
- Sprinkle the tops with a little flaked sea salt before baking.



#### **Room Temperature:**

Keep cookies in an airtight container for up to 5 days. That's theoretical, of course—they'll be gone in 48 hours unless you slap hands.

#### Freezer (Baked Cookies):

Let them cool completely, then stack between layers of parchment in a freezer-safe container or zip-top bag. They'll keep for up to 3 months, assuming you're not sneaking one every time you "check the freezer for dinner."

#### Freezer (Cookie Dough):

Scoop the dough into balls and freeze them on a baking sheet. Once solid, transfer to a bag or container. Bake from frozen—just add a minute or two to the bake time. Perfect for midnight cravings or surprise drop-ins from judgmental in-laws.

#### **Reheating Tip:**

Warm a cookie in the microwave for 8–10 seconds. It'll taste like it just came out of the oven... and your day will instantly improve.

## **FAQs**

#### Can I use margarine instead of butter?

Only if you're looking to ruin your life and your cookies. Use real butter.

#### What is butternut flavoring? Can I skip it?

It's an old-school Southern bakery secret weapon. Adds a warm, nutty, slightly maple-ish vibe. You can skip it, but you'll miss that nostalgic edge that makes people think you inherited this recipe from someone named Mabel.

### Can I chill the dough?

You can, but you don't need to. These cookies are designed for impatient bakers with no self-control—aka all of us.

## Can I make them smaller? Or bigger?

Absolutely. Just adjust the bake time. Smaller = shave off a minute or two. Bigger = add a few and pretend it's still one serving if you only eat one.

## How do I keep the cookies soft?

Store them in an airtight container with a slice of bread or half an apple. The cookies steal the moisture like they're plotting something.

## Are these good for gifting?

They're excellent for gifting, assuming you can part with them. Wrap them in wax paper, tie with twine, and try not to eat them in the car on the way over.

# Office to have...

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