

## Peanut Butter Cookies

Make about 3 dozen cookies

These cookies have a strong peanut flavor that comes from extra-crunchy peanut butter (in our taste test we preferred Jif) as well as from roasted salted peanuts that are ground in a food processor and worked into the dough. In our testing, we found that salted butter brings out the flavor of the nuts. If using unsalted butter, increase the salt to one teaspoon.

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

½ pound (2 sticks) salted butter, softened

1 cup brown sugar, packed

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup extra-crunchy peanut butter, preferably Jif at room temperature

2 large eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 cup roasted salted peanuts, ground in food processor to resemble bread crumbs, about 14 pulses

1. Adjust oven rack to upper- and lower-middle positions and heat oven to 350<sup>o</sup> degrees. Line two large cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt together in medium bowl; set aside.
3. Beat butter until creamy. Add sugars; beat until fluffy, about three minutes with electric mixer, stopping to scrape bowl as necessary. Beat in peanut butter until fully incorporated, then eggs, one at a time, then vanilla. Gently stir dry ingredients into peanut butter mixture. Add ground peanuts; stir gently until just incorporated.
4. Working with generous 2 tablespoons each time, roll dough into 2 inch balls. Place balls on parchment-lined cookie sheets, leaving 2 ½ inches between each ball. Press each dough ball twice with dinner fork dipped in cold water to make crisscross designs.
5. Bake, reversing position of cookie sheets halfway through baking time (from top to bottom racks and back to front), until cookies are puffed and slightly brown along edges but not on top, 10 to 12 minutes. Cookies will not look fully baked. Cool cookies on cookie sheet until set, about 4 minutes, then transfer to wire rack with wide spatula to cool completely.