

Peppermint Bark

from TidyMom <http://tidymom.net/2010/holiday-baking-christmas-tree-peppermint-bark/>

What You Need.....

You can use many different variations on this, but here are the basics:

- **Cookie Cutters** – Any cookie cutters will work. The smaller metal ones work nice because you can clean them up and gift them along with the bark. (snowflakes, stars and gingerbread men would all be cute too)
- **Decorator Bag** - I melted the chocolate right in the [12" disposable decorator bag](#), then squeezed the chocolate into all the nooks and crannies of my cookie cutter. You can find pastry bags at the craft stores, [Amazon](#) or [Sweet Baking Supply](#).
- **Chocolate** – For this project I used the [Wilton Candy Cane Color Burst Melts](#) and [Ghirardelli Chocolate Baking Bar](#). But you can use any kind of chocolate you like. I like the Wilton Candy Cane Color Burst Melts because they're already peppermint flavored, so no need to add peppermint oil. Again most of these can be purchased at the craft stores, Wal-Mart, [Amazon](#) or [Sweet Baking Supply](#).
- **Crushed Candy Cane** – you can buy a package of candy canes and crush them, or I found a bag of crushed candy cane pieces in the baking aisle of my grocery store.
- **Parchment or Waxed paper lined sheet pan**
- **Clear Plastic Bags , Ribbon and tags**- Clear cellophane bags, ribbon and a cute tag turn your peppermint bark into the perfect holiday gift!

Instructions...

- Place the cookie cutters in refrigerator until ready to fill.
- Line your baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper.
- Place Ghirardelli Chocolate pieces in decorator bag (filling about 1/2 way), twist top of bag, place in microwave on 50% power for 30 seconds. Remove bag and "knead" chocolate. Place bag back in microwave and repeat until chocolate is melted.
- Remove cookie cutters from refrigerator and place on lined baking sheet.
- Snip the tip off the end of the decorator bag
- Use the chocolate filled bag to pipe the chocolate into the cookie cutters (*you may need to hold onto the cookie cutter while you do this). Be sure to get into all of the corners.
- Place pan of chocolate filled cookie cutters into freezer for about 10 mins. for chocolate to "set".
- Place Wilton Candy Cane Burst Melts into decorator bag, and repeat as you did for chocolate.
- Remove pan from freezer, snip the tip of the decorator bag and pipe the Candy Cane Burst Melts on top of the Ghirardelli chocolate.
- Sprinkle with Crushed Candy Cane pieces.
- Place in freezer for about 10 mins. to set.
- Once the chocolate has hardened, remove from the cookie cutters by gently pressing with your thumbs.
- Wrap a few pieces of bark in a clear cellophane bag tie with ribbon, attach clean cookie cutter and a cute tag!
- If you're using a decorative box or tin, put a piece of wax paper in that covers the bottom and sticks over the sides. Once you've filled the container, flip the wax paper over the top and cover. If you're using a plate, or cute dish, like I found at Michaels, arrange the bark and cover with plastic wrap.
- Will keep in fridge for 5-6 weeks.

*if you can't find the Wilton Candy Cane Burst melts, you can follow [my other recipe for Peppermint Bark](#) using peppermint oil.

