

pies and tarts

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Pies and Tarts

A pie is a structural problem before it is a recipe. The crust has to stay crisp under a wet filling, hold its shape without a tin's support in places, and be tender enough to cut with a fork — three requirements that pull against each other, which is why crust technique gets more attention than filling technique.

Part of [Baking](#).

Crust

- **Shortcrust** — solid fat cut into flour cold, water kept to a minimum. The fat coats the flour and shortens the [gluten](#) strands; see [baking fats](#) and [pastry](#).
- **Flaky versus mealy** — larger fat pieces give flakes, finer ones give a sandier, more waterproof crust. Which you want depends on the filling.
- **Sweet crusts** — *pâte sucrée* and *pâte sablée*, closer to a [cookies](#) dough than a bread one. The *sablé* log on that page is the same dough handled as a cookie rather than as a shell.
- **Alternative flours** — [nut pies with rye crust](#) is the site's rye example; see also [flour](#).
- **Blind baking**, weights, and the soggy-bottom problem

- **Crimping, lattices, and venting**

Fillings

- Fruit, and the thickeners that handle its water: cornstarch, tapioca, flour
- Custard and cream, which set rather than thicken
- Nut and syrup fillings
- Savoury pies, quiche, and hand pies

Neighbours

- **Galette** — a free-form tart folded over its filling, no tin needed
- **Cobbler, crumble, and crisp** — a fruit base under a topping rather than in a crust; see [apple crisp](#)
- **Tarte tatin** and the upside-down family

Using the harvest

Pie is where a fruit glut goes. [Dried Fruit](#) · [Fruit Jellies](#) [Jam Jellies](#) [Butters](#) · [Most Shelf Stable Vegetables](#) · [winter cellars](#) · [Central Ohio Monthly Planting](#)

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