

America's
TEST KITCHEN

BUYING GUIDE

FOR SUPERMARKET INGREDIENTS

2012



Hundreds of Top-Rated Brands from
Our Up-To-Date Blind Taste Tests

A

Almond Extract

- Nielsen-Massey
- McCormick Imitation

Applesauce

- Musselman's Lite
- Musselman's Home Style

B

Bacon

- Farmland Hickory Smoked
- Boar's Head Brand Naturally Smoked Sliced
- Hormel Black Label Bacon, Original

Baked beans

- B&M Vegetarian
- Bush's Best Original

Barbecue sauce

- Bull's-Eye Original

Beans, canned chickpeas

- Pastene
- Goya

Beans, white

- Westbrae Organic Great Northern
- Progresso Cannellini

Blueberries, frozen

- Wyman's Frozen Wild

Bread, white sandwich

- Arnold Country Classics
- Pepperidge Farm Farmhouse Hearty

Bread, whole wheat

- Pepperidge Farm 100% Natural
- Rudi's Organic Bakery Honey Sweet

Bread crumbs, panko

- Ian's Panko

Broth, beef

- Rachael Ray Stock-in-a-Box All-Natural Beef Flavored Stock

Broth, chicken

- Swanson Certified Organic Free Range
- Better Than Bouillon

Broth, vegetable

- Swanson Vegetarian

Brownie mixes, boxed

- Ghirardelli Chocolate Supreme (with Chocolate Syrup)
- Barefoot Contessa

Butter, unsalted

- Plugrá European-Style
- Vermont Creamery European-Style

BEST BUY

- Land O'Lakes

C

Capers

- Reese Non Pareil
- Roland Nonpareille

Cheese, cheddar, sharp

- Cabot Sharp Vermont
- Tillamook Sharp
- Cracker Barrel Sharp White

Cheese, cheddar, extra sharp

- Cabot Private Stock Cheddar Cheese

Cheese, cottage

- Hood Country Style
- Friendship 4% California Style Cottage Cheese

Cheese, cream

- Philadelphia Brand

Cheese, feta

- Mt. Vikos Traditional
- Valbreso

Cheese, goat

- Vermont Butter & Cheese Company Chèvre
- Le Biquet Goat Cheese

Cheese, Gruyère

- Gruyère Reserve Wheel
- Emmi Le Gruyère Reserve

Cheese, mozzarella

BLOCK

- Sorrento Whole Milk Mozzarella (sold as Precious on the West Coast)

SHREDDED

- Kraft Shredded Part Skim

Cheese, Parmesan

- Boar's Head Parmigiano-Reggiano
- Il Villaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano

BEST BUY

- BelGioioso Parmesan

Cheese, ricotta, part-skim

- Calabro

Cheese, Swiss

FOR EATING RAW

- Emmentaler

FOR GRILLED CHEESE

- Jarlsberg

Chicken, breasts, boneless skinless

- Empire Kosher
- Bell & Evans
- Springer Mountain Farms

Chicken, whole

- Empire Kosher
- Bell & Evans

Chili powder

- Spice Islands

Chocolate, dark

- Callebaut Intense Dark Chocolate, L-60-40 NV
- Ghirardelli Bittersweet Chocolate Baking Bar

Chocolate, milk

- Dove Silky Smooth
- Endangered Species All-Natural Smooth
- Green & Black's Organic

Chocolate, dark chocolate chips

- Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet
- Hershey's Special Dark Mildly Sweet

Chocolate, milk-chocolate chips

- Hershey's Milk Chocolate Chips

Chocolate, unsweetened

- Hershey's Baking Bar
- Valrhona
- Scharffen Berger

Chocolate, white chips

- Guittard Choc-Au-Lait
- Ghirardelli

Cinnamon

- Penzeys Extra Fancy Vietnamese Cassia

Cocoa powder

BEST OVERALL

- Callebaut

BEST SUPERMARKET BRAND

- Droste

Coconut milk

- Chaokoh
- Ka-Me

LIGHT

- A Taste of Thai Lite Coconut Milk

Coffee, decaf

- Maxwell House
- Peet's

Coffee, whole bean

DARKER ROAST

- Millstone Colombian Supremo

LIGHTER ROAST

- Green Mountain Coffee Fair Trade Our Blend

Cornmeal, whole-grain

- Arrowhead Mills
- Hodgson Mill

Curry powder

- Penzeys Sweet

D

Dressing, Italian

- Good Seasons Italian All Natural Salad Dressing Mix
- Kraft Seven Seas Viva

Dressing, Creamy Italian

- Marzetti

F

Flour, all-purpose

- King Arthur Unbleached
- Pillsbury Unbleached

Flour, whole wheat

- King Arthur Premium
- Bob's Red Mill Organic

G

Garam masala

- McCormick Gourmet Collection

Graham crackers

- Keebler
- Honeymaid

H

Ham, spiral-cut

- Cook's Spiral Sliced Hickory Smoked Bone-In Honey Ham
- Hickory Farms HoneyGold Ham

Hot cocoa mixes

- Godiva
- Ghirardelli Double Chocolate

Hot sauce

- Frank's RedHot Original

I

Ice cream, chocolate

- Ben & Jerry's
- Friendly's Rich & Creamy Classic

Ice cream, vanilla

- Ben & Jerry's
- Häagen-Dazs

Ice Cream Bars

- Dove
- Häagen-Dazs

Ice Cream Sandwiches

- Nestlé/Carnation
- Klondike

J

Jam, blackberry

- Smucker's

K

Ketchup

- Heinz Organic
- Hunt's
- Simply Heinz

M

Macaroni and Cheese

- Kraft Homestyle
- Kraft Velveeta Original Shells

Maple syrup

- Maple Grove Farms Pure Maple Syrup, Grade A Dark Amber
- Highland Sugarworks Grade B

Mayonnaise

- Hellmann's Real (Best Foods on the West Coast)
- Hellmann's Light

Molasses

- Brer Rabbit Mild
- Plantation Barbados

Mustard, Dijon

- Grey Poupon
- Maille

Mustard, coarse-grain

- Grey Poupon Harvest
- Grey Poupon Country

O

Oats, rolled

FOR BAKING

- Quaker Old-Fashioned Rolled

FOR COOKING

- Bob's Red Mill Organic Extra-Thick

Oats, steel-cut

- Bob's Red Mill Organic Steel-Cut

Olive oil, extra-virgin

- Columela
- Lucini Italia Premium Select
- Colavita

CALIFORNIA

- California Olive Ranch

Olive oil, pure

- DaVinci 100% Pure
- Colavita

Orange juice, fresh-squeezed

- Natalie's Orchid Island

Oyster Crackers

- Sunshine Krispy
- Olde Cape Cod (also sold as Westminster Crackers)

P

Paprika

- The Spice House Hungarian Sweet
- Penzeys Hungarian Sweet

Pasta, egg noodles

- Light 'n Fluffy Wide

Pasta, elbow macaroni

- Barilla
- Mueller's

Pasta, farfalle

- Mueller's Bow Ties
- De Cecco Farfalle

Pasta, tortellini

- Barilla Three Cheese

Pasta, ravioli

- Rosetto
- Celentano

Pasta, lasagna noodles, no-boil

- Barilla
- Ronzoni
- DeFino

Pasta, lasagna noodles, whole wheat

- Bionaturæ
- DeLallo

Pasta, penne

- Mueller's

Pasta, spaghetti

- DeCecco

Pasta, spaghetti, whole wheat

- Bionaturæ Organic 100% Whole Wheat

Pasta sauce

- Bertolli Tomato & Basil
- Francesco Rinaldi
- Prego Marinara

Pasta sauce, premium

- Victoria Marinara
- Classico Marinara

Peanut butter, crunchy

- Jif Natural
- Skippy Natural Super Chunk
- Peanut Butter & Co. Crunch Time No-Stir

Peanut butter, creamy

- Skippy
- Jif Natural Peanut Butter Spread
- Reese's

Peppercorns, black

- Kalustyan's Indian Tellicherry
- Morton & Basset Organic
- Zingerman's Tellicherry

Pepperoni, sliced

- Margherita

Peppers, roasted red

- Dunbars Sweet
- Cento

Pie crust

- Pillsbury Just Unroll!

Potato chips

- Lay's Kettle Cooked Original

Potato chips, reduced fat

- Cape Cod 40% Reduced Fat
- Lay's Kettle Cooked Reduced Fat Extra Crunchy Potato Chips

Preserves, raspberry

- Smucker's

Preserves, strawberry

- Welch's

Pumpkin, canned

- Libby's
- One-Pie

R

Rice, arborio

- RiceSelect
- Riso Baricella Superfino

Rice, basmati

- Tilda
- Kohinoor

Rice, brown

- Goya Natural Long Grain

Rice, long-grain white

- Lundberg Organic
- Carolina Enriched
- Canilla Extra-Long-Grain

S

Salsa, hot

- Pace Hot Chunky
- Frontera Hot Habanero

Salt

- Maldon Sea Salt
- Fleur de Sel de Camargue
- Morton Coarse Kosher

Sausage, breakfast, patties

- Jimmy Dean, Fully Cooked
- Jones Dairy Farm, Fully Cooked

Sausage, breakfast, links

- Farmland Pork, fully cooked

Soy sauce

- Lee Kum Kee
- Ohsawa Nama Shoyu

T

Tea, black

PLAIN

- Twinings English Breakfast

WITH MILK

- Tazo Awake

Tea, green

- Celestial Seasonings Authentic
- Twinings Green Tea

Tomatoes, canned crushed

- Tuttorosso
- Muir Glen Organic

Tomatoes, canned diced

- Hunt's
- Muir Glen Organic

Tomatoes, canned pureed

- Muir Glen

Tomatoes, canned whole

- Muir Glen
- Hunt's

Tomato paste

- Goya
- Pastene
- Contadina

Tomato Soup

- Progresso Vegetable Classics Hearty Tomato
- Imagine Organic

Tortilla chips

- Santitas
- Tostitos
- Green Mountain Gringo

Tuna, in olive oil

- Tonnino Tuna Ventresca Yellowfin

Tuna, in water

- Wild Planet Wild Albacore
- American Tuna Pole Caught Wild Albacore
- Starkist Selects Solid White Albacore

Turkey, whole

- Empire Kosher
- Bell & Evans All-Natural
- Butterball Premium "Prebasted"

V

Vanilla extract

- McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- Rodelle Pure Vanilla Extract

Vegetable oil

- Crisco Natural Blend
- Crisco Canola

Vinegar, apple cider

- Maille
- Spectrum Naturals Organic, Unfiltered

Vinegar, balsamic

- Lucini Gran Riserva
- Monari Federzoni
- Ortalli

Vinegar, red wine

- Laurent du Clos
- Pompeian

Vinegar, white wine

FOR COOKING

- Colavita Aged

FOR VINAIGRETTES

- Spectrum Naturals

Y

Yogurt, whole milk

- Brown Cow Cream Top Plain
- Stonyfield Farm Organic

Yogurt, Greek, nonfat

- Olympus
- Voskos

Yogurt, Greek, low fat

- Fage Total 2%
- Chobani 2%

Yogurt, Greek, full fat

- Olympus
- Greek Gods
- Fage Total

Yogurt, low fat, strawberry

- Dannon
- Wallaby Organic Creamy Australian Style

Complete results for these taste tests and hundreds more are available to CooksIllustrated.com and CooksCountry.com web members. Go to CooksIllustrated.com or CooksCountry.com for a No-Risk 14-Day FREE TRIAL membership.