

QUIRIOUS CONSUMER



**TOFFEE CRUNCH
COOKIE TEST**

Good to the last crumb

Carol's Cookies, which has been lobbing its decadent half-pound sugar bombs out of Highland Park for more than 25 years, has done it again. Q tasted its new cookie, toffee crunch—repeatedly—and found it exceptional.

The “crunch” is a bit of a misnomer; like other Carol's Cookies, it's dense and chewy, though the melted chunks of toffee do get crispy around the cookie's edges. Throw in the dark chocolate chunks and it seems like two treats in one—which is appropriate in a cookie that's 4 inches across and 1 1/2 inches thick. (The folks at Carol's swore they could not provide a calorie count; apparently they don't want to know any more than we do.)

Q's tasters loved the cookie but had different perspectives on the toffee content: “Toffee flavor is subtle and nice.” “It adds a little kick to a standard chocolate chip cookie.” “It would be better if there were more chocolate chips to balance the abundance of toffee.” “Perfect blend of dry and moist ... not too sweet.” “These are very, very dangerous.”

Carol's toffee crunch cookies, \$2.29 to \$2.99 each, hit Whole Foods and Ghirardelli stores Wednesday. Visit carolscookies.com for other store locations or to order online.

—Nancy Watkins

Downsizing

Live like a kid again

SO YOU'RE A SHORT ADULT. Let's just say life gives you a bit more leg room. More important, you can take advantage of products aimed at kids that work great for adults. Kid products are often less expensive and more fun. Another reason to think short is sweet this summer. —Emilie Le Beau

Kids' furniture is all about soft landings. We're talking warm fabrics and comfy cushions. And there really isn't an adult's version, unless you're on the short side. Short adults can easily squeeze onto the **Eggplant Beanbag Chair**. This chair has a 31-inch diameter and is shaped like an adorable eggplant. Also available in apple, tomato or blueberry. \$240 at babesta.com.



Shorter than 5 foot 4? Then you can fit on the **Rugby Stripe Beach Towel** by Pottery Barn Kids. This terry velour beach towel is 32 by 64 inches and has sporty rugby stripes on one side. The reverse has racing stripes. Made with cotton, machine washable and available in three colors. \$19 at www.pbkids.com or call 800-993-4923.



No matter their size, adults can have good clean fun with **Squid Soap**. True, Squid Soap is marketed toward kids. But how many other soaps squirt “squid ink” into your hands? It comes in a dispenser shaped like a squid. Pump a little “ink” onto your hand and wash away. Four 8.4-ounce bottles cost \$15.99 at squidsoap.com or at Wal-Mart stores.



Sure, this hat is sold in the boys' section but it's perfect for a short adult. The **Stitched Arch Logo Baseball Cap** from Gap Kids is made with 100 percent cotton and is machine washable. Available in XL, \$10.50 at Gap Kids stores or gap.com.