

Defining Dairy Free, Kosher-Pareve and Vegan

As consumers have become more mindful of what they eat, and more interested in the ingredients in their food and beverage products, there are an increasing number of claims that consumers look for when purchasing a product. Some choices consumers make are driven by allergies to things like dairy and nuts, and others are driven by religious or lifestyle choices like wanting to follow a Kosher diet or eating fewer or no animal products.

At Guittard, we have recently added several new claims to some of our products to ensure we are offering you the same great-tasting chocolate that also meets consumer's evolving dietary requirements. Below is an overview of those claims and the precise definitions of each to assist in your making the right choice for your needs.



DAIRY-FREE – NO DETECTABLE DAIRY

Our dedicated Dairy-Free production line allows for us to produce dark chocolates with a dairy-free claim. Products made on this line are free from containing detectable dairy proteins and do not carry a dairy allergen advisory statement. Products with a Dairy-Free claim are suitable for individuals with milk allergens. A dairy-free product might not always be vegan, such as products made with cane sugar filtered using bone char. Bone char is a material made from animal bones that is sometimes used in the sugar refining process to remove colorant impurities.

A product labeled as "dairy-free" contains no dairy or milk-based ingredients in formulation and it must be tested negative for dairy protein to be in compliance with the federal food regulation. Guittard Chocolates labeled as 'Dairy-Free' are made on dedicated processing and packaging lines. Furthermore, we have validated policies and procedures in place, as well as product testing protocols, to ensure compliance.



KOSHER PAREVE – CONTAINS NO DAIRY INGREDIENTS

Kosher Pareve and Dairy-Free are two different terms referring to different types of foods, although there can be some overlap between them. Kosher Pareve refers to a category of food that is considered neutral, meaning it contains neither meat nor dairy ingredients. Kosher Parve is certified according to Judaism law by an orthodox organization. Pareve foods can be eaten with either meat or dairy dishes according to Jewish dietary laws. On the other hand, Dairy-Free refers to food that does not contain any milk or milk-based ingredients, which is a regulated claim and therefore must be in compliance with federal food laws.

Guittard Dairy-Free products are also certified Kosher Pareve. These products are suitable for a dairy-free lifestyle and for those with dietary restrictions related to dairy products. Guittard products that carry a Dairy-Free claim and Kosher Pareve certification are made on a dedicated dairy-free and Kosher Pareve production line. We maintain a complete Preventive Controls program including personnel training as it relates to allergens in our facility.



VEGAN CERTIFICATION – NO DETECTABLE DAIRY, NO ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Vegan is a consumer dietary practice that does not have any single, recognized definition. While "Vegan" is not a term defined by the FDA and ultimately the definition of vegan is up to the individual, there are general stipulations assumed when labeling products as "Vegan" – namely that the product is not made using animal by-products, including milk or milk products or sugar filtered with bone char. Guittard is providing third-party certification via Vegan.org to help consumers easily identify chocolate and cocoa products that they may consider to be vegan.

There are three types of chocolates in general: milk, dark and white chocolates. Milk and white chocolates contain milk ingredients. Dark chocolate, generally formulated without milk ingredients, but processed on shared equipment with milk chocolate, may be suitable for a "vegan" diet but not suitable for individuals with milk allergens.

At Guittard, products are certified vegan by vegan.org; any product that carries a vegan.org certification is also made on a dedicated dairy-free line. This ensures that we adhere to the strictest measures in terms of dairy allergens. These products do not contain any detectable levels of dairy; they do not contain any animal by-products, milk or milk products, sugar filtered with bone char or be processed with any animal products or by-products. This means that these products are suitable for those following a very strict vegan lifestyle or those who wish to avoid any animal-derived ingredient and material.



VEGAN-FRIENDLY – NO ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS, MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF DAIRY

We do offer a series of products that are "vegan-friendly." These chocolates are not made using animal products or animal by-products, milk or milk products, or sugar filtered with bone char but may be made on shared equipment and thus may include a "made on equipment that also processes milk chocolate" warning following the ingredient statement. These 'vegan-friendly' labeled chocolates are not suitable for individuals with milk allergens.

For milk allergen information by specific products, check the allergen statement that appears on each individual package (below the ingredient listing); for items that are made on shared equipment, you will see the statement: "Made on equipment also used to make milk chocolate. Not suitable for individuals with milk allergies."

While the term 'vegan' is not defined by the FDA or any scientific association, if you are following a vegan diet, the above insights may help your consideration of Guittard's chocolates as part of your dietary preferences and/or product design stipulations.

Guittard products that are not certified by vegan.org or labeled as "Vegan Friendly" are manufactured with cane sugar that may be processed with bone char.