Candy is taxable. Candy is the preparation of sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces regardless of size. Candy does not include any preparation containing flour and must require no refrigeration.

**Vending Machine Sales**

Starting July 1, 2017, the only taxable food sold through vending machines is prepared food, soft drinks, candy, and dietary supplements. Previously, all food sold through a vending machine was taxable. For more information, see the Vending Machines and Other Coin-Operated Devices Industry Guide.

**Flour**

Items that contain the word “flour,” such as white, whole wheat, rice, corn, or brown flour, on the ingredient label are not taxable. Ingredients such as soy or whey used in place of flour, are not flour.

**Refrigeration**

If an item requires refrigeration, it is not candy. For example, ice cream bars require refrigeration so they are not taxable. However, these items are taxable if they are prepared food. For more information, see Prepared Food Fact Sheet.

Candy that does not require refrigeration is taxable even if it is sold frozen.

**Sweeteners**

Examples of sweeteners include:
- artificial sweeteners
- aspartame
- barley malt
- corn syrup
- dextrose
- evaporated cane juice
- fructose
- fruit juice concentrates
- honey
- invert sugar
- molasses
- rice syrup
- saccharin
- stevia
- sucralose
- sucrose

**Taxable Candy**

Examples of taxable candy include:
- almond bark
- breath mints
- breakfast and nutrition bars without flour
- candy bars
- chocolate chips
- chocolate-coated potato chips
- fruit roll-ups
- marshmallows
- caramel corn
- caramel apples
- chocolate or carob covered raisins, nuts, etc.
- sweet or semi-sweet cooking bars or chips
- gum

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What’s New in 2017

Starting July 1, 2017, the only taxable food sold through vending machines is prepared food, soft drinks, candy, and dietary supplements.
- honey roasted and honey coated nuts, beer nuts
- peanut brittle
- sugarless candy
- yogurt covered raisins, nuts, etc.

**Note:** Cotton candy is commonly thought of as candy, but it is not candy because it is not sold in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. Cotton candy is taxable when prepared by the seller.

**Legal References**
Minnesota Statutes 297A.61  
subd. 3(d), Definitions  
subd. 33, Candy  
Minnesota Rule 8130.4700, Prepared Food, Candy, and Soft Drinks

**Other Fact Sheets**
Dietary Supplements  
Food and Food Ingredients  
Prepared Food  
Soft Drinks and Other Beverages

**Industry Guides**
Food and Bar Establishments  
Vending Machines and Other Coin-Operated Devices