

## Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

**Clipper Fairtrade and unbleached bags, in summary:** Clipper built its name on Fairtrade economics and plastic free unbleached bags. What those audited claims mean, why they matter, and a clear note on stock.

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/>*

Our [Clipper deep dive](#) profiles the brand; this page focuses on the two things Clipper is genuinely known for, Fairtrade and unbleached bags, with a clear word on stock at the end.

*Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in March 2026.*

### What Fairtrade actually certifies

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What Fairtrade actually certifies, Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/>*

Fairtrade certification is about the economics at the growing end: a minimum price floor, a community premium paid on top, and standards on labour and conditions, independently audited. For tea, much of which is grown by workers and smallholders with little bargaining power, that is a meaningful claim about how the people who picked the leaf were treated and paid. It is not a flavour or quality claim, and it does not by itself make the tea taste better; it is an ethics of sourcing claim, and that is the clear way to frame it.

### The unbleached, plastic free bag

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The unbleached, plastic free bag, Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/>*

Clipper made an early point of using unbleached (natural coloured) paper teabags and moving to plant based, non plastic, heat sealed bags free of the polypropylene many teabags used. The unbleached part avoids chlorine bleaching of the bag paper; the plastic free part addresses the microplastic concern covered in our [plastic in teabags](#) note. Together they are a coherent "what touches your tea and what goes in the

bin" story, and Clipper was genuinely ahead of much of the industry on it.

## Why this combination matters

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Why this combination matters, Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/*

Plenty of brands do one ethical thing. Clipper is notable for stacking grower economics (Fairtrade), bag chemistry (unbleached) and end of life (plastic free, compostable) into one consistent position, often alongside organic lines too. For a shopper who cares about the supply chain and the bin as much as the cup, that combined stance is the differentiator, and it is externally certified rather than self declared, which is the part that makes it credible.

## How it compares

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for How it compares, Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/*

Different badges answer different worries. [Pukka](#) leads on organic and B Corp; Clipper leads on Fairtrade and bag frankness; [Teapigs](#) leads on leaf quality and plastic free temples. None is strictly better; they optimise for different values. Knowing which certification addresses which concern lets you buy on the one you actually care about instead of a vague green impression.

## A clear note on availability

We do not currently stock the Clipper range at [teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk), so this page is here for genuine information rather than to sell you Clipper. If the Fairtrade and plastic free combination is what you are after, the closest equivalents we do carry are the organic and ethically positioned ranges such as [Pukka](#) and Dragonfly, both covered in our brand guides. We would rather tell you that clearly than pretend otherwise; a wiki that profiles a brand owes you the truth about whether you can buy it here.

## What the two claims actually mean, in one place

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/*

Claim	What it certifies	What it is not
Fairtrade	a minimum price floor, a community premium, audited labour and conditions at the growing end	not a flavour or quality claim
Unbleached bag	no chlorine bleaching of the bag paper	not a taste difference; the cup is identical
Plastic free bag	plant based, heat sealed, no polypropylene; compostable	not an organic or sourcing claim by itself

**Related on the wiki:** [Fairtrade Tea Explained: What the Mark Really Does.](#)

## Reference noted

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Reference noted, Clipper, Fairtrade and Unbleached Bags. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/clipper-fairtrade-story/>*

- [Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea \(history\)](#)
- [Fairtrade Foundation: Tea](#)

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## Tea reading

- [Clipper deep dive](#)
- [Pukka, organic and B Corp](#)
- [Plastic in teabags](#)

## The summary

Clipper's reputation rests on real, audited things: Fairtrade economics for growers and unbleached, plastic free bags. Those are sourcing and materials claims, not flavour ones, and they are credibly certified. We do not stock it; if its values are your priority, our organic and ethical ranges such as [Pukka](#) and Dragonfly are the nearest match, and that clear signpost is the point of this entry.

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