Best PG Tips Tea: Which to Buy

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Best PG Tips tea, in summary:** Best PG Tips tea: Original, Gold, Decaf and Chai compared by job, where it leads on value, and how to brew it so it is not stewed.

PG Tips is the everyday pyramid bag staple in millions of British kitchens, and the range is small enough that choosing well is easy once you know what each version is for. The brand history and the pyramid innovation are in the PG Tips deep dive and the pyramid bag story; this is the practical buying guide, sitting inside the best UK tea brands guide.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in April 2026.

The standard Original

The default pyramid Original is exactly what it claims: a brisk, strong, dependable everyday cup built for milk and volume. It is the value choice and the benchmark the brand is known for, an Assam-forward blend with Kenyan and Ceylon backbone engineered for British soft water and milk-tea habits. For most households this is the right default; the question is only whether your water and your taste want one of the alternatives instead, which the comparisons below answer.

Gold

The Gold Special Blend is the smoother, richer step up, the same idea as Yorkshire's Gold tier: not stronger so much as rounder and fuller. It is the cup to keep alongside Original for when the brew matters more than the count. If you take your tea strong with milk and want it to feel a notch better without becoming a different drink, Gold delivers that cheaply.

Decaf

The Decaf English Breakfast is the evening and caffeine-watching choice; brew it at full strength and full time because decaf infuses slower. The processing detail that affects flavour and the natural question is in decaf, CO2 vs solvent, and the low-caffeine-not-zero distinction in the caffeine guide. For no caffeine at all, rooibos is the route, see rooibos benefits.

Chai and flavoured

The Chai Special Blend is a competent pre-spiced everyday chai, convenient rather than a substitute for a properly made pot, the from-scratch version is in how to make masala chai and the chai guide, with ways to use it in the chai recipes. As a low-effort spiced cup it is a good buy; as a representation of real masala chai it is a shortcut, and a fair one.

How PG Tips compares

Against the other giants it is a strength and loyalty question more than a quality gap: Yorkshire vs PG Tips is the closest contest, Tetley vs PG Tips the softer alternative, and the shopping overview is in best British tea bags and the best Yorkshire tea guide. Against quality-leaf brands it competes on price and convenience rather than leaf grade, see best Teapigs tea.

How to brew PG Tips so it is not stewed

The single biggest PG Tips mistake is stewing: leaving the bag far too long, or using off-the-boil water, then over-compensating with milk. Use fully boiling water, a sensible three to four minute steep, then remove the bag. The pyramid does help the leaf circulate, and that is the real engineering point in the pyramid bag story, but it cannot rescue a stewed cup. The general method is in common brewing mistakes and the water temperature guide.

Common PG Tips mistakes

Three. Stewing the bag and blaming the brand. Never trying Gold, which is a cheap and worthwhile upgrade. And buying the Chai expecting real from-scratch masala chai rather than a convenient approximation. Avoid those and PG Tips does its job, a strong, reliable, fairly priced everyday cuppa, very well. The best UK tea brands guide shows where to spend elsewhere.

PG Tips sourcing and the pyramid story

PG Tips is a Brooke Bond brand, mass market by design, with leaf from Rainforest Alliance certified estates, and its one real product design contribution is the pyramid bag, which really does give the leaf more room to infuse; the full story is in the PG Tips pyramid bag story and the brand context in the deep dive. It is not a premium leaf brand and does not pretend to be; it is engineered for a strong, consistent, affordable cup, and judged on that brief it succeeds, the comparison in Yorkshire vs PG Tips and the best UK tea brands guide.

PG Tips iced and for volume

Its strength and consistency make PG Tips a sensible base for a big jug of iced tea or a workplace urn, where character matters less than reliable strength, see the iced tea recipes and the brewing principle in the water temperature guide. For high-volume everyday drinking judged on cost it is one of the best-value strong cups available, which is the whole argument of the best British tea bags roundup.

PG Tips, caffeine and pregnancy

It is a normal-strength black tea, so caffeine budgeting applies as in the caffeine guide, and the pregnancy guidance is the standard black tea position: moderation, mind iron timing, the Decaf as the easy swap, all in

is black tea safe in pregnancy and best tea in pregnancy, with rooibos as the caffeine-free option, see rooibos benefits.

PG Tips by job, at a glance

For…	The pick
Everyday value	Original pyramid: brisk, strong, milk and volume default
The better cup	Gold Special Blend: rounder, richer, a cheap upgrade
Evening	Decaf English Breakfast, brewed full strength and time
Low effort spice	Chai Special Blend: a convenient pre spiced approximation

Quick take

Buy Original for everyday strength and value, Gold for the smoother cup, Decaf at full strength for the evening and Chai for low-effort spice. It is a small, plain range whose only real risk is brewing, not choice: stew the bag and you blame the brand for your own cup. Brew it with fully boiling water for three to four minutes, keep a box of Gold for the cup that matters, and PG Tips is one of the dependable cornerstones of the British kitchen, not a quality leaf brand and not trying to be. Browse the full PG Tips range or compare across the tea shop.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Freshness beats provenance for most drinkers. Buy a smaller bag more often.

Tea reading

- PG Tips deep dive
- Pyramid bag story
- Yorkshire vs PG Tips
- Tetley vs PG Tips
- Best British tea bags
- Best tea brands UK

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