Best Tetley Tea: Which to Buy

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Best Tetley tea, in summary:** Best Tetley tea: the soft everyday Original, the greens, the caffeine free range and the dessert novelties, what each is for and how to brew them.

Tetley is a heritage everyday brand, a household staple since 1837, with an unusually adventurous flavoured range bolted onto a soft, approachable core. The brand history is in the Tetley deep dive; this is the practical buying guide, inside the best UK tea brands guide.

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

The everyday Original

The Original 80s and 240s are the core: a softer, rounder everyday black than the briskest rivals, very milk-friendly and unchallenging in the best sense. It is the comfortable national cuppa for people who find Yorkshire or PG Tips a touch sharp, and that softness is a deliberate house choice, not a weakness. If you take a lot of milk, Tetley is engineered to suit you.

The green and herbal range

The pure green and the flavoured greens (lemon, mango and passion fruit) are solid everyday greens and especially good iced, see iced tea recipes, how to brew green tea and the green tea guide. The greens want off-the-boil water and a short steep like any green; brewed like black tea they go bitter and get unfairly written off.

Caffeine free

The redbush (rooibos), camomile and peppermint bags are competent, accessible caffeine-free options. For what each is actually good for, see rooibos benefits, how to brew rooibos, chamomile benefits and side effects and the bedtime tea hub. They are everyday grade rather than specialist; for organic depth see best Pukka tea and best Dragonfly tea.

The novelty range, Tetley’s real point of difference

The dessert flavoured blends, Digestive Biscuit, Lemon Drizzle, Cherry Bakewell, are the most distinctive line in mainstream British retail: good fun, sweet tasting without sugar, and a love it or leave it proposition worth exactly one box to find out. No other giant does this, and it is the clearest reason to reach for Tetley

specifically rather than a rival.

How Tetley compares

Against the giants, Tetley is the softer, rounder, more approachable option: Tetley vs PG Tips is the key contest, with Yorkshire vs PG Tips and best British tea bags for the wider field, and best Yorkshire tea and best PG Tips for the direct alternatives. Against quality-leaf brands it competes on approachability and the novelty range rather than leaf grade.

How to brew Tetley

The black Original wants fully boiling water and a real steep; because it is a softer blend, under-brewing makes it taste of very little, so do not rush it. The greens want off-the-boil water and a short steep. Method per type is in how to brew green tea, common brewing mistakes and the water temperature guide.

Common Tetley mistakes

Buying it expecting Yorkshire-level briskness (it is deliberately softer), brewing the greens like black tea, and judging the brand by the novelty blends in either direction. Avoid those and Tetley is exactly what it sets out to be: the soft, friendly, slightly playful everyday cuppa, mapped against the field in the best UK tea brands guide.

Tetley heritage and sourcing

Tetley invented the UK drawstring tea bag and has been a household name since 1837, now part of Tata Consumer Products and Rainforest Alliance certified, the full story in the Tetley deep dive. Its house identity is softness and approachability rather than briskness, which is a deliberate blend choice and the main axis of Tetley vs PG Tips and the best British tea bags roundup. For milk-forward drinkers that softness is the selling point, not a shortcoming, the recurring nuance of the best UK tea brands guide.

Tetley greens iced and for summer

The pure and flavoured greens are very good iced and make an easy summer jug, see the iced tea recipes, cold brew recipes and the brewing rule in how to brew green tea: off the boil, short steep, or they turn bitter and get unfairly dismissed. This is where Tetley quietly offers strong value, competent flavoured green at an everyday price.

Tetley caffeine free and pregnancy

The redbush, camomile and peppermint bags are everyday-grade caffeine-free options; what each is for is in rooibos benefits, chamomile benefits and side effects and the sleep hub. In pregnancy the herb decides, not the brand: see rooibos, chamomile and the overview in best tea in pregnancy, and for the black Original the standard caffeine position in is black tea safe in pregnancy.

Tetley by job, at a glance

For…	The pick

Soft everyday	Original 80s/240s: rounder and gentler than the briskest rivals
Iced and daytime	Pure and flavoured greens, off the boil, short steep
Caffeine free	Redbush, camomile, peppermint: competent everyday grade
Fun	Dessert novelty blends: one box to find out

Quick take

Buy Tetley Original for a soft, milk-friendly everyday cup, the greens for iced and daytime, the herbals for casual caffeine free, and one dessert novelty box for fun. What defines it is range and approachability rather than a single standout, and for drinkers who put milk first that softness is a real selling point, not a flaw. It will not satisfy someone chasing Yorkshire-level briskness or Teapigs-level leaf, and it is not meant to; on its own terms, approachable consistency, it delivers. Browse the full Tetley range or compare across the tea shop.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · A clean pot with one good loose leaf in it beats five oddball bags swallowed in a rush.

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- Tetley deep dive
- Tetley vs PG Tips
- Best PG Tips
- Best British tea bags
- Best tea brands UK

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