

# Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

**Bottled water for tea, in summary:** Bottled water for tea: Volvic works, Evian doesn't, sparkling never. Why filtered tap beats most bottled brands for UK tea brewing.

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/>*

Is bottled water better for tea? Sometimes, sometimes worse, and rarely worth it for daily drinking. The answer is on the label. This sits beside [best water for tea](#) in the water cluster.

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

## It depends entirely on the bottle

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for It depends entirely on the bottle, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/>*

Bottled waters range from very soft to extremely mineral heavy. A low mineral still water can brew a clean, bright cup; a hard mineral water can be worse than your tap, see [does water quality affect tea](#). There is no single "bottled equals better".

## Read the mineral content

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Read the mineral content, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/>*

Look for total dissolved solids or the mineral breakdown. Low to moderate, gently mineralised still water suits tea best. Very high mineral waters mute and flatten it much as hard tap does, see [hard vs soft water](#).

## Never sparkling

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Never sparkling, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/>*

Sparkling water is wrong for hot tea: the carbonation and added salts clash with the brew, and the dissolved CO2 escapes on heating to leave a flat, oddly mineral cup. This is one place the answer is simply no. (For

cold brew or iced tea it can work as a mixer with already-brewed concentrate.)

## The waste problem

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The waste problem, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/*

Even when a particular still water makes a great cup, using bottled water for every brew is expensive and environmentally poor. For daily tea a filter jug achieves most of the benefit far more cheaply and cleanly, see [filtered water for tea](#).

## When it makes sense

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for When it makes sense, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/*

Bottled water is reasonable as an occasional treat for a special tea, or in a very hard water area for a prized delicate leaf where a filter is not enough. As an everyday default it is hard to justify.

## Not the same as distilled

Do not confuse low mineral bottled water with distilled or purified zero mineral water; the latter is actively bad for tea because some mineral content is needed to extract flavour, see [distilled water and tea](#).

## What it boils down to

Bottled water is only better if it is low to moderate mineral still water, and even then a filter usually matches it for daily tea at a fraction of the cost and waste, see [best water for tea](#).

## In short: Bottled water for tea

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| Brand / type                | Mineral content   | Good for tea?                                     |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Volvic                      | ~109 mg/L total dissolved solids; low calcium (12 mg/L) | Yes; one of the best bottled options for tea      |
| Highland Spring             | ~120 mg/L TDS; moderate                                 | Reasonable; broadly OK for tea                    |
| Tesco Welsh Spring          | ~150 mg/L TDS; moderate                                 | Reasonable budget option                          |
| Evian                       | ~300 mg/L TDS; high calcium                             | Not ideal; behaves like moderately hard tap water |
| Vittel                      | ~840 mg/L TDS; very high calcium and magnesium          | Bad for tea; worse than UK hard tap water         |
| San Pellegrino, Acqua Panna | ~720-1100 mg/L TDS; high mineral                        | Bad for tea; intended for drinking, not brewing   |

| Brand / type                | Mineral content                               | Good for tea?                     |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sparkling water (any brand) | Carbonation interferes with brewing chemistry | Never use sparkling for hot tea   |
| Filtered tap water          | Variable; depends on input water + filter     | Beats most bottled in UK; cheaper |

## Reading the label: the numbers to aim for

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Reading the label: the numbers to aim for, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/*

UK labels must show mineral content per litre, and two figures matter for tea: total dissolved solids (TDS) and calcium. Aim for TDS in the 50 to 150 mg/L band and calcium under about 30 mg/L, the low to moderate "naturally soft" range tea brews best in. Below that, toward distilled or zero mineral, the cup goes flat because some mineral is needed to extract properly; well above it the cup mutes exactly as hard tap does. For scale, San Pellegrino sits over 1,100 mg/L, roughly ten times Volvic's 109, which is why it is a drinking water, not a brewing one.

## What to buy

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What to buy, Is Bottled Water Better for Tea?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/bottled-water-for-tea/*

If you do use bottled, [Volvic](#) (low-mineral, consistent) or [Highland Spring](#) are the tea-friendly choices; avoid [Evian](#), Vittel and the Italian mineral waters. For everyday brewing a [Brita filter jug](#) (£25 to £40) beats almost any bottle on cost, cup and waste.

Same shelf, same shop: the [English tea range](#) and [loose leaf range](#).

## Reference noted

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- [EFSA: Scientific opinion on dietary reference values for water](#)
- [NHS: Water, drinks and your health](#)

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## More water reading

For broader water context see the [best water for tea guide](#) and [does water quality affect tea](#). For the filtration alternative see [filtered water for tea](#). For the zero-mineral case see [distilled water and tea](#). For tap-water

context see [is tap water OK for tea](#).

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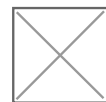
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