

One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

One-cup tea brewing, in summary: A perfect single cup needs no teapot: big basket infuser, right temperature water, covered, timed, removed, re steeped. The minimal method.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/>*

One cup brewing is how most people actually drink tea, and you can make it excellent with no teapot at all. This sits in the teaware cluster beside [do you need a teapot](#).

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

The minimal kit

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The minimal kit, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/>*

A kettle, a mug, a large basket infuser and a lid or saucer. That is a complete loose leaf single cup setup, no pot required, see [teaware essentials](#).

The method

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The method, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/>*

Teaspoon of loose leaf in a big basket infuser, correct temperature water poured over it, infuser fully submerged, mug covered, timed for the type, then infuser removed, see [using an infuser](#) and the [temperature guide](#).

Cover the mug

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Cover the mug, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/>*

The single most skipped step. A lid or saucer keeps the temperature up for an even extraction, the difference between a flat and a full single cup.

Remove the leaf on time

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Remove the leaf on time, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/*

Without a pot to decant from, the leaf will over steep if left. Lift the infuser out at time; do not let it sit, see [over steeping](#).

Re steep the leaf

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Re steep the leaf, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/*

Good leaf gives a second cup; keep the infuser and re brew rather than binning after one. Single cup does not mean single use leaf.

No infuser? Improvise

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for No infuser? Improvise, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/*

Brew loose in the mug and pour through a small strainer into a second mug, the original travel method. Crude but it respects the leaf room principle, see [infuser vs strainer](#).

At work or travelling

An infuser mug or a travel flask with a basket gives proper loose leaf tea away from a kitchen; this is where one cup technique pays off most, see [do you need a teapot](#).

What it boils down to

Big infuser, right temperature water, submerged, covered, timed, removed, re steeped. A perfect single cup needs no teapot, see [choosing a teapot](#).

Which no pot method is which

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Method

Kit

Best for

Watch out for

One cup brewing	mug + large basket infuser + lid	a clean single cup, leaf removed on time	must lift the infuser out, no pot to decant
No equipment / office	just a cup and hot water	travel, the office, proving leaf beats kit	needs a saucer pour off to stop it
Grandpa style	a mug, nothing else	all day forgiving leaf, topped up	broken or very astringent leaf turns bitter

They are three points on one idea, leaf and water matter more than equipment, so pick by situation: a basket infuser for a precise single cup, the bare cup method when you have nothing, grandpa style when you want it to look after itself across a working day.

Want to actually buy a good one?

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Want to actually buy a good one?, One Cup Tea Brewing: Loose Leaf Without a Pot. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/one-cup-tea-brewing/*

If this has helped you decide, the next step is buying a genuinely good one judged on the cup rather than the marketing. The products shown on this page are matched to exactly this topic, so they are the starting point. To see the wider range, browse [tea and herbal infusions at teas.co.uk](#) or the full [tea shop](#). As everywhere on this wiki: buy on the cup and the description, never the marketing, check the per cup price, and remember free UK delivery is over £35.

[Browse the tea range ?](#)

Related on the wiki: [Tetley One Cup Engineered For The Single Mug](#).

Worth picking up: the [English tea range](#) and [loose leaf range](#).

FROM THE CURATOR *teas* · Take the simplest thing on this page that fits your routine. Range and ritual are for week two.

More brewing reading

- [Do you need a teapot](#)
- [How to use a tea infuser](#)
- [Teaware essentials](#)
- [Best kettle for tea](#)

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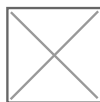
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