

Tea Equipment Buying Guide

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Tea equipment buying guide, in summary: A UK guide to tea equipment: kettle, basket infuser, storage tins are essential. Variable-temperature kettle for green/white. Skip novelty gadgets.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Tea Equipment Buying Guide. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/tea-equipment-buying-guide/>*

The answer to "what tea kit do I need" is: less than the shops suggest. This sits in the mega guide cluster beside [the ultimate guide to making tea](#).

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

Tea equipment by priority

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Tea equipment by priority, Tea Equipment Buying Guide. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/tea-equipment-buying-guide/>*

Item	Cost range	Worth it?
Standard electric kettle	GBP 15-30	Essential; reach full rolling boil
Variable-temperature kettle	GBP 40-80	Worthwhile for green/white drinkers
Stainless-steel basket infuser	GBP 5-15	Single best loose-leaf upgrade
Ceramic/stoneware teapot	GBP 15-40	Useful for serving multiple cups
Airtight opaque storage tin	GBP 5-15 per tin	Essential for keeping tea fresh
Kitchen scale (digital)	GBP 8-20	Useful for consistency; teaspoon works fine for most
Gaiwan (Chinese lidded cup)	GBP 10-25	For serious gongfu specialty tea
Yixing teapot (clay specialist)	GBP 30-200+	Enthusiast tier only
Matcha whisk and bowl	GBP 15-40	For ceremonial matcha drinkers
Travel kettle	GBP 15-30	Worth it for frequent travellers
Tea-tray for gongfu	GBP 20-60	Only for serious gongfu practice
Most novelty gadgets	GBP 10-50	Mostly skip; convenience/aesthetics not better tea

The three essentials, and what to skip

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The three essentials, and what to skip, Tea Equipment Buying Guide. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/tea-equipment-buying-guide/*

"What tea equipment do I need" has a short answer: less than the shops suggest. Three items handle about 90% of British tea-drinking quality, a kettle that reaches a proper rolling boil, a basket infuser or a teapot with a strainer so the leaves can expand, and airtight, opaque storage to keep the tea fresh, see [how to keep tea fresh](#). Beyond that, a variable-temperature kettle is the one genuinely worthwhile upgrade if you drink green or white tea, where the precise lower temperatures (70 to 90C) noticeably improve the cup, see [ideal water temperatures](#); for black-only drinkers any kettle is fine. A cheap basket infuser is the single best loose-leaf upgrade, and a kitchen scale helps consistency for premium leaf though a teaspoon is fine for everyday tea. What to skip is most of the rest: single-use pods (expensive and wasteful), aesthetic gift sets (gimmicky kit and mid-quality tea), novelty animal-shaped infusers (poor at actually brewing), and most built-in-strainer mugs, since a basic infuser-in-mug works better. Equipment-hoarding does not improve the cup; getting the basics right does.

Starter sets by drinker type

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Starter sets by drinker type, Tea Equipment Buying Guide. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/tea-equipment-buying-guide/*

The practical move is to match the kit to what you actually drink rather than buying everything. The standard mug drinker (PG Tips, Yorkshire, Tetley) needs a standard kettle and an airtight tin, roughly £30. The loose-leaf curious, moving up from supermarket bags, adds a basket infuser, a few storage tins and a teapot, roughly £75. The regular green or white drinker is the one who genuinely benefits from a variable-temperature kettle plus an infuser and tins, roughly £90. The specialty Chinese drinker brewing gongfu-style wants a variable kettle, a gaiwan and small cups, a tray and storage, and perhaps a Yixing pot later, £190 or more. The matcha drinker needs a kettle, a whisk and bowl, a fine sieve and airtight matcha storage, roughly £70. Buy the set that fits your style; equipment beyond your actual usage is just waste, see [loose leaf vs tea bags](#).

What to buy

Spend on the basics that earn their keep: a decent [kettle](#), a [basket infuser](#) and airtight [storage](#), then a [loose-leaf tea](#) worth brewing in them. Browse the full [tea shop](#); free UK delivery over £35.

Reference noted

- [Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea \(beverage\)](#)

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Equipment reading

- [The ultimate guide to making tea](#)
- [Loose leaf vs tea bags](#)
- [How to keep tea fresh](#)
- [Ideal water temperatures](#)

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