Teapot Materials

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Teapot materials, in summary:** ceramic best all rounder, glass aesthetic, cast iron heat retention, Yixing specialty.

Teapot material is function, not decoration; here is the short version. This sits in the kit cluster beside cast iron teapot.

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

Ceramic/porcelain

Neutral, versatile, good all rounder; does not flavour the tea, suits any type, the safe default.

Glass

Neutral and lets you watch the leaf and colour; great for delicate and blooming teas, less heat retention, see glass teapot.

Cast iron (enamelled)

Excellent heat retention for robust black tea; enamel lined ones stay neutral, heavy and slow to cool, see cast iron teapot.

Unglazed clay (yixing)

Porous, seasons to one tea type, never soaped; a connoisseur tool, not an all rounder, see yixing seasoning .

Stainless steel

Durable and practical, can impart a faint metallic note to some; fine for everyday robust tea.

How to choose

Variety drinker: neutral ceramic or glass. Dedicated single type: clay. Strong black, lots of it: cast iron.

What you need to know: teapot materials

Material	Answer

Ceramic/porcelain	BEST all rounder; neutral flavour, good heat retention, broad price range
Glass	Aesthetic appeal; see brewing; less heat retention; suits delicate teas
Cast iron (enamelled)	Excellent heat retention; weight; suits Japanese-style brewing
Unglazed clay (Yixing)	Specialty Chinese; absorbs flavours; single-tea use; gongfu approach
Stainless steel	Durable, neutral; lacks aesthetic; reasonable practical choice
Plastic	Not recommended; flavour transfer concerns; less premium
Bone china	Refined ceramic; same properties as porcelain; aesthetic premium
Best general choice	Quality ceramic/porcelain; £15-40; broadly suitable
For aesthetic display	Glass teapot shows brewing; pretty but less practical for some
For traditional brewing	Cast iron Japanese or Yixing Chinese clay; cultural authenticity
Cleanliness considerations	Smooth glazed surfaces clean easily; unglazed clay needs specific care
Framing	Material matters but matched to use; quality ceramic suits most users

Reference noted

- PubMed: Tannins and non-haem iron absorption

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · The cup you finish is the right cup. Skip the variety until that one is sorted.

More from the tea wiki

For related equipment context see the cast iron teapot, the glass teapot, the tea infuser types, the variable-temperature kettle, and the travel tea infuser. For specialty Chinese brewing see the Yixing teapot seasoning , the gaiwan brewing, and the gongfu brewing. For broader context see the how to brew tea, the water for tea, and the loose leaf vs bags.

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