

Teapot Materials

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Teapot materials, in summary: ceramic best general-purpose, glass aesthetic, cast iron heat retention, Yixing specialty.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Teapot Materials. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/teapot-materials-explained/>*

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

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Ceramic/porcelain , Teapot Materials. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/teapot-materials-explained/>*

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

Glass

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Glass , Teapot Materials. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/teapot-materials-explained/>*

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

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Material	Answer
Ceramic/porcelain	BEST general-purpose; 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.

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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](#).

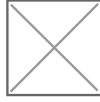
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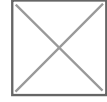
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