# Do You Need a Water Filter for Tea?

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Water filter for tea, in summary:** Water filtering for tea: worthwhile for hard-water London/SE drinking delicate teas; not essential for soft-water areas. Volvic alternative.

"Does filtered water make better tea?" has a clear, area-dependent answer. This sits in the kit cluster beside electric vs stovetop kettle.

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

## The answer

Water is most of the cup; in hard water areas a simple filter is one of the cheapest upgrades that makes a real difference, see best water for tea.

## Why hard water dulls tea

High mineral content and alkalinity flatten aroma and can scum the surface; filtering reduces that, see water TDS.

## Why too soft is also wrong

Distilled or very soft water tastes flat; some minerals help, so the goal is moderate, not zero, see water pH.

## Who benefits most

People in hard water areas, especially drinking delicate or fine tea, get the clearest improvement; the main case.

## Who benefits least

Already good soft/medium tap water; a filter then changes little, do not over spend.

## What you do not need

Elaborate "tea water" systems or bottled water for everyday tea; a basic jug filter gets most of the benefit.

## Quick take

In hard water areas a basic filter is a cheap, real upgrade; elsewhere it matters less, and you do not need anything fancy, see best water for tea.

### The essentials: water filter for tea

| Aspect | Answer |
|---|---|
| The answer | Worth it if hard-water region with delicate teas; not essential for most |
| Why hard water dulls | High mineral content binds tea polyphenols; reduces flavour clarity |
| Why too soft is wrong | Distilled water produces flat hollow tea; minerals needed for flavour |
| Who benefits most | London/SE England (hard water) drinking green/white/oolong tea |
| Who benefits least | Scotland/Wales/north (soft water already); primarily black tea drinkers |
| Brita-style jug filter | Good entry-level; reduces hardness modestly; £20-30 + filter cartridges |
| Bottled spring water alternative | Volvic (60 ppm) excellent for delicate tea; modest cost for premium tea |
| What you don't need | Reverse osmosis (removes too much), expensive multi-stage filters, alkaline water |
| UK water variation | Soft in Scotland, medium in Manchester, hard in London, very hard in Cambridge |
| Tea drinkers in London | Substantial benefit from filtering or bottled water for premium tea |
| Cost-benefit consideration | £3-5 weekly cartridges; £1-2 per litre bottled water; pick what works |
| Framing | Clearly helps in hard water areas; not essential for people on soft water |

### Reference noted

- NHS: Water, drinks and your health

**FROM THE CURATOR**

*teas* · Begin with the cheapest plain jug filter before looking at anything fancier. Trade up only once the basic jug has made a difference.

### More from the tea wiki

For water context see the water for tea, the water TDS for tea, and the water pH for tea. For equipment context see the variable-temperature kettle, the tea infuser types, the teapot materials, the cast iron teapot, and the glass teapot. For specific tea types affected by water see the green tea, the white tea, the oolong tea, and the Darjeeling tea. For broader brewing see the how to brew tea.

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