

Using a French Press for Tea

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Cafetiere for tea, in summary: Can you use a cafetiere for tea? Yes, very well, with one rule: do not crush or over-steep the leaf. Why it works, the best teas, the coffee-taint caveat.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Using a French Press for Tea. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/french-press-for-tea/>*

"Can I use a cafetiere for tea?" has a useful, yes, with one rule. This sits in the kit cluster beside [tea infuser types](#).

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

The answer

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The answer , Using a French Press for Tea. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/french-press-for-tea/>*

A French press (cafetiere) works well for loose leaf tea, it gives the leaves plenty of room to expand, which is exactly what good extraction needs, see [loose leaf tea](#).

The one rule

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Decant fully when the steep is done; the plunger does not stop extraction, so leaving tea on the leaves over steeps it bitter, the key clear point, see [troubleshooting](#).

Why it works

Lots of room plus a coarse filter equals good full leaf extraction; better than a cramped ball infuser.

Best teas for it

Robust black, herbal and many oolongs; for delicate green, mind temperature and time, see [temperatures](#).

The coffee taint caveat

A press also used for coffee can taint tea; ideally keep a separate one or clean very thoroughly.

How to do it

Leaf in, correct temperature water, steep, then plunge and pour out completely (decant if not finishing it).

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FROM THE CURATOR *teas* · Decant every time. The plunger slows things down but it does not stop them.

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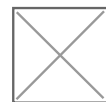
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