

Clipper Organic and Fairtrade Decaffeinated Tea: Brewing a Proper Decaf

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Clipper Organic and Fairtrade Decaffeinated Tea: Brewing a Proper Decaf, in

summary: An organic, Fairtrade black tea with most of its caffeine removed, packed in full 2.9g bags so the mug keeps its body. Time it rather than judging by colour, three to four minutes, then add milk.

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

The usual complaint about [decaf](#) is a thin, watery mug, and the answer is mostly more leaf in the bag rather than a better process. Clipper puts a full everyday weight into each of its 40 bags, which is why this still behaves like a builder's brew.

Decaffeinated is not the same as caffeine-free

The ingredient list is short: decaffeinated [black tea](#), organically grown and traded to Fairtrade standards, and nothing else. It starts life as ordinary black leaf and has most of its [caffeine](#) taken out, but a small amount always stays behind. That is the line between decaf and caffeine-free, and if you want none at all, a herbal infusion is the straighter answer.

The published list names none of the 14 major allergens, and both the organic and the Fairtrade credentials sit in the product's own name. Clipper has carried the Fairtrade Mark since 1994, when it was one of the first three UK companies to receive it, so on this box the ethics are the brand's starting point rather than a side line.

Why the bag weight decides the cup

Forty bags in 116g works out at 2.9g of leaf in each, the same weight as Clipper's caffeinated everyday cartons. Plenty of decaf boxes quietly use a lighter bag, and that, more than the decaffeination, is where the watery reputation comes from. At full weight the mug has real body and holds up under milk, landing a touch rounder and less brisk than the caffeinated blend.

What decaffeination does cost is aroma. The process carries off some of the scent that sits alongside the caffeine in the leaf, so the steam rising off the mug is quieter than a newly brewed pot of the caffeinated version. Body survives, the lift less so. For a late cup with milk that is an easy trade, and most people only notice it side by side.

Brewing it by the clock

Because the leaf was soaked once already to take the caffeine out, it colours the mug quickly and looks finished well before it is. Ignore the colour and time it: three to four minutes in freshly boiled water, then take the bag out and add milk. For a pot, allow two bags per 500ml, warm the pot first and leave it four minutes; that fills two mugs.

It is shaped as an everyday blend, so milk is the intended way to drink it and sugar is up to you; lemon belongs with a lighter, scented tea. We tag it malty and strong, and it earns both best in the afternoon and evening, when you want the routine of a proper brew without the full caffeine of the morning box.

The packs we stock

- [Clipper Organic and Fairtrade Decaffeinated Tea, 40 Tea Bags 116g](#) (barcode 5021991942211)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Clipper Organic and Fairtrade Decaffeinated Tea, 40 Tea Bags 116g names none of the 14 major allergens. Check the Clipper decaf box on sale now, since its formulation and allergen advice may be updated.

Ingredients, as published: Decaffeinated Organically Grown Black Tea, Tea: Traded in compliance with Fairtrade standards, total 100%.

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. What your Clipper decaf box says comes first.

What to eat with it

- [McVitie's Rich Tea Biscuits, 300g](#): A plain Rich Tea for a quick [dunk](#) that leaves the malty decaf to do the talking at the end of the day.
- [McVitie's Milk Chocolate Digestives Biscuits, 266g](#): A milk [chocolate](#) digestive is the familiar partner for a strong, milky mug, and it matches the weight this decaf keeps.
- [Border Classic Biscuit Sharing Pack, 400g](#): A sharing pack for when the decaf pot goes round the whole table after dinner.

Elsewhere in the Clipper range

- [Clipper Fairtrade Everyday Tea, 80 Pack 232g](#)
- [Clipper Fairtrade Organic Decaf Latin American Instant Coffee, 100g](#)
- [Clipper Fairtrade Organic Green Tea, 80 Tea Bags 160g](#)

- [Clipper Fairtrade Restoring Roots Ginger & Turmeric Organic, 20 Tea Bags 36g](#)
- [Clipper Organic Chamomile, Lemon & Lavender Sleep Time 20, 30g](#)
- [Clipper Organic Everyday, 160 Tea Bags 464g](#)

The full range is on the [Clipper brand page](#).

FAQ

Is Clipper decaf tea caffeine-free? No. It is decaffeinated black tea, so a small amount of caffeine remains; if you want none at all, choose a herbal infusion instead.

Why does decaf look ready so quickly? The leaf has been through water once during decaffeination, so the colour comes out fast. Give it the full three to four minutes anyway.

Can I make a pot of Clipper decaf? Yes. Two bags in a warmed 500ml pot for four minutes gives two good mugs, with milk added once poured.

How does it compare with Clipper Organic Everyday? The bag weight is the same 2.9g. The decaf is a little softer and rounder, and it comes in a box of 40 rather than 80 or 160.

Is it organic and Fairtrade? Both are in the product name, and the ingredient list describes organically grown black tea traded to Fairtrade standards.

Curator's note: Give it the full four minutes and put the milk in only after the bag comes out. It is the pot I would make at nine at night, and I doubt most of the table would guess it was the decaf. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Clipper Organic and Fairtrade Decaffeinated Tea: Brewing a Proper Decaf

Field	Detail
Brand	Clipper
Packs we stock	40 Tea Bags 116g
Category	Organic Tea Bags
Allergens (as published)	The 14 major allergens are all absent from the published ingredients of this Clipper decaf.
Caffeine	decaffeinated
Brew time	Three to four minutes, by the clock
Best with	Milk and a plain biscuit
Occasion	Afternoon and evening

More from the tea wiki

- [Clipper](#)
- [How to Make Tea Properly: The Eight Step Method](#)
- [Caffeine in Tea](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)

- [Decaf Tea](#)
- [Builders' Tea: The Working Class Story](#)

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