

Kenco Smooth: the mild Kenco jar and which size to buy

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Kenco Smooth: the mild Kenco jar and which size to buy, in summary: Kenco's gentle everyday jar: a medium roast with little bitterness and a clean, short finish. It is fully caffeinated. Take the 95g jar to try it or for a light user, the 190g for a daily household.

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

Smooth is the word most often misread on the instant shelf, because people take it to mean decaffeinated. It means mild: an ordinary caffeinated coffee with the harsh edges sanded down, and the jar most likely to keep the peace in a house that argues about coffee.

Mild by design, not by accident

Smooth and Rich are the Kenco pair, told apart by strength. Rich is the dark, bold one; Smooth sits at the gentle end, a medium roast that smells of toasted grain with a faint nuttiness, keeps its bitterness well back and finishes cleanly instead of lingering. There is still enough weight in the cup to carry some milk, just no sharp edge to it.

The published label is short: instant coffee at 90 percent with roast and ground coffee at 10 percent, and none of the 14 major allergens named. So the gentleness comes from the roast, not from anything added or taken away. It is caffeinated. For a jar without the [caffeine](#), Kenco [Decaf](#) is the separate product to look for.

The 95g jar or the 190g jar

We stock Smooth in two jar sizes, and the choice is really about how quickly you get through coffee. The 95g jar suits a first try, a desk drawer, a holiday cupboard or a one-person household where a big jar would sit open for months. The 190g jar is the standard household size for a kitchen that makes several mugs every day.

Opened instant slowly loses aroma and takes on damp each time the lid comes off, so a jar finished within a few weeks tastes better at the bottom than one that lingers. That is the real case for the small jar. Whichever you choose, screw the lid down firmly and keep a dry spoon for it. Once you know you like it, Kenco's paper refills top up the jar without another one coming home.

How to stop a mild coffee tasting thin

Mild and under-dosed tastes of very little. A full rounded teaspoon to an ordinary mug is the place to start, and two for a big milky one, because with instant the spoon is the only strength control you have; nothing steeps. Let the kettle settle for a moment after it boils, because with no heavy roast to hide behind, any scorch from boiling water shows in a mild cup.

It suits the first mug of the day for anyone who finds ordinary instant harsh, the late-afternoon cup when something darker would be too much, and a household where one person drinks it black and another very milky. Its clean finish also leaves room for a biscuit. A plain digestive or a butterscotch biscuit sits better beside it than anything intensely bitter.

The packs we stock

- [Kenco Smooth Instant Coffee, 95g](#) (barcode 8711000605943)
- [Kenco Smooth Instant Coffee, 190g](#) (barcode 8711000599594)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Kenco Smooth Instant Coffee, 190g names none of the 14 major allergens. Look at the Smooth jar you buy, as Kenco may revise this mild roast's recipe and allergen advice.

Ingredients, as published: 90% instant coffee with 10% roast and ground coffee.

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The Smooth jar itself settles anything left in doubt.

What to eat with it

- [McVitie's Digestives Biscuits The Light One, 250g](#): A plain, light digestive keeps pace with a mild coffee instead of drowning it.
- [McVitie's Milk Chocolate Digestives Biscuits, 266g](#): Milk [chocolate](#) suits a gentle, milky mug of Smooth better than a darker, more bitter coating would.
- [Border Butterscotch Crunch Organic Biscuits, 135g](#): Butterscotch picks up the toasted note in the cup.
- [Border Classic Biscuit Sharing Pack, 400g](#): A sharing pack for the kind of household where Smooth is the jar everyone can agree on.

Elsewhere in the Kenco range

- [Kenco Classic Latte Instant Coffee, 20 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Decaf Instant Coffee, 190g](#)
- [Kenco Gold Indulgence Instant Coffee, 190g](#)
- [Kenco Iced Hot Salted Caramel Latte Instant Coffee, 20 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Iced Hot Vanilla Latte Instant Coffee, 8 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Latte Instant Coffee Sachets, 8 Sachets 130.4g](#)

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

FAQ

Is Kenco Smooth decaf? No. Smooth describes a mild flavour; it is a caffeinated coffee, and Kenco Decaf is the separate jar.

What is the difference between Kenco Smooth and Kenco Rich? Rich is darker, heavier and more bitter with a long finish. Smooth is a medium roast with little bitterness and a short, clean finish.

Should I buy the 95g or the 190g jar? The 95g jar for trying it or for an occasional drinker, the 190g jar for a household that drinks instant every day.

Why does my Kenco Smooth taste watery? Too little coffee. Use a full rounded teaspoon per mug, and two for a large milky one.

What is in Kenco Smooth? The published label lists only instant coffee and roast and ground coffee, and names none of the 14 major allergens; check the pack you buy.

Curator's note: If a harsh first mug has put you off instant, start with the small jar and a generous spoon. Most people who call Smooth weak are simply under-filling it. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Kenco Smooth: the mild Kenco jar and which size to buy

Field	Detail
Brand	Kenco
Packs we stock	95g; 190g
Category	Instant Coffee
Allergens (as published)	According to Kenco, the published Smooth ingredients carry none of the 14 major allergens.
Caffeine	caffeinated
Roast	Medium, clean and short on the finish
Best for	Black, or with a splash of milk
Which jar	95g to try, 190g for every day

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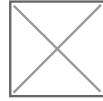
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