

# McVitie's White Chocolate Hobnobs: Sweetness and the Right Cup

From the teas.co.uk wiki

**McVitie's White Chocolate Hobnobs: Sweetness and the Right Cup, in summary:** An oat Hobnob with a white chocolate flavour coating on one face. Nothing in it is bitter, so it is very sweet, and it needs a strong, unsugared black tea or an intense coffee to balance it.

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

The published ingredient list calls this a white [chocolate](#) flavour coating, made from sugar, vegetable oils and milk powders with natural vanilla flavouring, and names no cocoa at all. That absence of anything bitter is the single most useful thing to know about the biscuit.

## Reading the white coating

The coating makes up 26% of the biscuit and sits on one face, over wholegrain rolled oats at 28% and wholemeal wheat flour at 15%. Its oils are palm, shea and sal, sweetened with sugar and given body by skimmed and whole milk powders. Because only one side is covered, every mouthful is part plain oat and part sweet coating.

The allergen advice names wheat and oats, which contain gluten, plus milk and soya. Where milk and dark coatings bring cocoa to push against the sugar, this one brings nothing of the kind, so the only contrast comes from the oats: toasted, faintly savoury and full of texture. That contrast is why a white coating works better on a Hobnob than it would on a plain, quiet biscuit.

## Where it sits among the Hobnobs

Against the milk and dark Hobnobs, this is the sweetest coating of the three. In those two, cocoa solids carry a measure of bitterness that pushes back against the sugar; here there is none, so the sugar stands on its own. People tend to try it once and then either keep buying it or never return to it, which is a matter of taste rather than a failing of the bake.

[Dunk](#) with care. The oats hold up well; the coating is the weak point, and it gives way before the biscuit does. Keep the coated side up and clear of the tea and dip only briefly, so the coating stays on the biscuit

instead of ending up floating in your cup.

## The cup that clears it

Strong tea is the answer, because its tannin scrubs sugar off the palate. Make it with one bag to 200ml of freshly boiled water, give it four full minutes, then add a little milk and leave the sugar in the bowl. Brew it weakly and the coating hangs around long after the last crumb. An [Assam](#) or a sturdy everyday black blend does the job best.

Coffee drinkers should go intense and black. An espresso-style capsule brings roast bitterness that stands in for the cocoa the coating lacks. If this is an evening biscuit in your house, a decaffeinated breakfast tea brewed just as strong does the same work with the [caffeine](#) left out.

## The packs we stock

- [McVitie's Hobnobs White Chocolate Biscuits, 232g](#) (barcode 5000168016085)

## What the label says

The published ingredient list for McVitie's Hobnobs White Chocolate Biscuits, 232g says it contains wheat and oats (gluten), milk and soya. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

**Ingredients, as published:** White Chocolate Flavour Coating (26%) [Sugar, Vegetable Oils (Palm (Certified Sustainable), Shea, Sal), Dried Skimmed Milk, Dried Whole Milk, Emulsifier (Soya Lecithin), Natural Vanilla Flavouring], Wholegrain Rolled Oats (28%), Wholemeal Wheat Flour (15%), Sugar, Palm Oil (Certified Sustainable), Glucose-Fructose Syrup, Raising Agents (Sodium Bicarbonate, Ammonium Bicarbonate), Salt.

### Typical values per 100g Per 100g

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Energy             | 510 kcal |
| Fat                | 24.7g    |
| of which saturates | 12.2g    |
| Carbohydrate       | 61.6g    |
| of which sugars    | 31.8g    |
| Fibre              | 4.4g     |
| Protein            | 8.0g     |
| Salt               | 0.72g    |

*Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The pack in your hands is the final word.*

## What to drink with it

- [Yorkshire Tea Original Everyday Blend, 80 Tea Bags 250g](#): A strong everyday black blend, brewed for four minutes, with the tannin to clear a sweet white coating.

- [Lavazza Espresso Maestro Intenso Nespresso Compatible, 10 Capsules](#): An intense espresso from Nespresso-compatible capsules, supplying the bitterness the coating does not have.
- [Twinings English Breakfast Decaffeinated, 80 Tea Bags 218g](#): A decaffeinated breakfast tea for the evening, brewed just as strong as the daytime cup.

## Elsewhere in the McVitie's range

- [McVitie's Club Layers Orange, 39g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Mint Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Orange Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Salted Caramel Flavour Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 x 22g](#)
- [McVitie's Dark Chocolate Digestive Biscuits, 266g](#)
- [McVitie's Digestive Pink Raspberry & Cream Flavour, Limited Edition, 232g](#)

The full range is on the [McVitie's brand page](#).

## FAQ

**Is the coating on white chocolate Hobnobs real white chocolate?** The ingredient list calls it a white chocolate flavour coating, made with sugar, palm, shea and sal oils, milk powders and natural vanilla flavouring, with no cocoa listed.

**Why do white chocolate Hobnobs taste so sweet?** Nothing in the coating is bitter, so there is no counterweight to the sugar and the drink has to provide one.

**What tea goes with white chocolate biscuits?** A strong black blend or an Assam, brewed for four minutes with a little milk and no sugar.

**Which way up should a white chocolate Hobnob go into tea?** Coated side up, and only briefly. The oats hold; it is the coating that gives way first.

**Do white chocolate Hobnobs contain gluten?** Yes. The allergen advice lists wheat and oats, as well as milk and soya.

*Curator's note: Brew the tea stronger than you think you need. This is the Hobnob that rewards a proper builder's mug. Lee, [teas.co.uk](http://teas.co.uk), Tunbridge Wells.*

## In short: McVitie's White Chocolate Hobnobs: Sweetness and the Right Cup

| Field                    | Detail                                                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Brand                    | McVitie's                                              |
| Packs we stock           | 232g                                                   |
| Category                 | Chocolate Biscuits                                     |
| Allergens (as published) | It contains wheat and oats (gluten), milk and soya.    |
| Dunkable                 | Briefly, coated side up                                |
| Best with                | Strong black tea without sugar, or an intense espresso |

## Field

## Detail

Sweetness

Very high

### More from the tea wiki

- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Tea With Cake: The Pairing That Never Fails \(If You Get It Right\)](#)
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