

McVitie's White Digestives: What the White Coating Is

From the teas.co.uk wiki

McVitie's White Digestives: What the White Coating Is, in summary: A wheatmeal digestive under a sweet white chocolate flavour coating that contains no cocoa, so nothing bitter balances the sugar. Pour a brisk tea without sugar, dunk coated side up for two seconds, and store the pack cool and dark.

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

The white topping on these digestives is a white [chocolate](#) flavour coating, and its ingredient list has no cocoa in it at all: sugar, vegetable oils, milk powders, an emulsifier and vanilla. That explains why they taste sweeter and softer than the milk or dark versions, and it shapes what to drink with them.

Reading the white coating

By weight the coating is 30% of the biscuit. It is made from sugar, palm, shea and sal oils, skimmed and whole milk powders, soya lecithin and natural vanilla flavouring. With no cocoa in the mix, it brings creaminess and sweetness but nothing bitter to push back against the biscuit, and that is exactly where it parts company with a milk or dark chocolate digestive.

Underneath is the familiar digestive: wheat flour at 39%, palm oil, wholemeal wheat flour, sugar, glucose-fructose syrup, raising agents and salt. The toasted wheatmeal and that salt are what stop the biscuit tasting like confectionery, because they arrive alongside the sugar rather than after it. The published allergen statement lists wheat (gluten), milk and soya.

White, milk or dark: choosing your digestive

McVitie's puts milk and dark chocolate on the same digestive too, and choosing between them comes down to how you feel about bitterness. Those who find the milk chocolate version slightly dry tend to prefer this one. Those who buy chocolate digestives for the cocoa bite should stay with milk or dark, because the white coating simply has none to give.

It is also the fussiest of the three to keep. A coating with no cocoa and plenty of milk and sugar softens sooner in a warm hand, a pocket or a car, and it shows its age more readily than a darker one. In a house with children the pack will not last long anyway; elsewhere, close it up tightly and store it somewhere cool

and dark.

Two seconds, coated side up

The digestive base is what lets this biscuit take a [dunk](#) at all, thanks to its clean, dry break. Keep it to about two seconds, holding the coated side up and out of the tea, because the white coating gives way sooner than milk chocolate does. Do not leave it sitting in the mug while you read.

What goes in the cup matters more than usual. Nothing in the coating counters the sugar, so the drink has to: a brisk [English breakfast](#) or an [Assam](#), brewed strong and taken without sugar, cuts through and resets the palate. A sugary, milky mug stacks sweet on sweet, and after a couple of [biscuits](#) neither the tea nor the coating has much left to say.

The packs we stock

- [McVitie's White Digestive Biscuits, 232g](#) (barcode 5000168011240)

What the label says

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

Ingredients, as published: Flour (39%) (Wheat Flour, Calcium, Iron, Niacin, Thiamin), White Chocolate Flavour Coating (30%) [Sugar, Vegetable Oils (Palm, Shea, Sal), Dried Skimmed Milk, Dried Whole Milk, Emulsifier (Soya Lecithin), Natural Vanilla Flavouring], Palm Oil, Wholemeal Wheat Flour (9%), Sugar, Glucose-Fructose Syrup, Raising Agents (Sodium Bicarbonate, Malic Acid, Ammonium Bicarbonate), Salt.

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	502 kcal
Fat	24.6g
of which saturates	12.9g
Carbohydrate	60.7g
of which sugars	27.0g
Fibre	2.4g
Protein	7.9g
Salt	0.94g

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

- [Glengettie Welsh Breakfast Tea, 80 Tea Bags 250g](#): a strong, brisk breakfast blend with the tannin to cut a sweet white coating.

- [Twinings English Breakfast Loose Tea, 125g](#): English breakfast from [loose leaf](#), brewed firm and taken without sugar.
- [Nescafe Gold Blend Intense Instant Coffee, 190g](#): an intense instant coffee that supplies the bitterness the coating lacks.

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

What is the white coating on McVitie's White Digestives made of? The label calls it a white chocolate flavour coating: sugar, palm, shea and sal oils, milk powders, soya lecithin and natural vanilla flavouring.

Why are white digestives sweeter than milk chocolate ones? There is no cocoa in the coating, so nothing bitter balances the sugar; only the salt in the biscuit does that job.

How long can you dunk a white chocolate digestive? About two seconds, coated side up. The white coating softens faster than milk chocolate.

Is a streaky white coating a sign the biscuits are stale? No. It is bloom, a [storage](#) effect from warming and cooling again; the biscuits are fine to eat, and a cool, dark cupboard prevents it.

What tea goes with white chocolate digestives? A strong breakfast tea or an Assam without sugar. The tannin cuts through the sweetness.

Curator's note: Buy these as the sweet treat in the cupboard rather than the everyday biscuit. Brew the tea strong and they make a lot more sense. Lee, [teas.co.uk](#), Tunbridge Wells.

In short: McVitie's White Digestives: What the White Coating Is

Field	Detail
Brand	McVitie's
Packs we stock	232g
Category	Chocolate Biscuits
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat (gluten), milk and soya.
Dunkable	About two seconds, coated side up
Best with	A strong breakfast tea, no sugar

Field

Choose it if

Detail

You find milk chocolate digestives a little dry

More from the tea wiki

- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
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