

Yorkshire Tea 160: Why One Bag Fills a Big Mug

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Yorkshire Tea 160: Why One Bag Fills a Big Mug, in summary: Yorkshire Tea brews strong mainly because each bag holds about 3.1g of leaf, against nearer 2.5g in many everyday bags. The extra leaf lets one bag cope with a big mug and plenty of milk.

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

Strength in a tea bag is mostly arithmetic: more leaf in the same water makes a deeper cup. The 160-bag box of Yorkshire Tea packs 500g, about 3.1g a bag, roughly a quarter more leaf than the lighter everyday bags, and that is the main reason it still tastes of tea under milk.

The half gram that makes the difference

The number is our own sum from the pack, 500g shared across 160 bags, rather than a serving weight printed on the box. A lighter everyday bag holds nearer 2.5g. Milk softens tannin and trims body, and a thin bag has little left once that happens; with the extra half gram here, there is still plenty of tea in the mug.

In the cup, a bright, forward briskness carries a rounded, faintly biscuity depth, with firm tannin behind it. Taken black it can seem heavy, because the blend assumes milk is on its way. It is the tea people graduate to once a lighter blend starts to seem thin: deep, coppery and properly strong when made with milk and a full steep.

Steeping a heavier bag

A heavy bag is easier to overdo than underdo. Four minutes suits a mug that will take milk; three is better if you drink it black. Leave it beyond five and you begin trading depth for grip, so the mug turns harsh rather than stronger. A single bag is enough even for a 400ml builder's mug, which a 2.5g bag struggles to fill with flavour.

Water plays a part too. Hard water dulls the bright edge of this blend, and the fix is thirty seconds more in the mug rather than a second bag; a filter jug helps further. Add milk once the bag is out and go by eye: a strong mug of this should end up a deep, coppery brown, not beige.

Who the 160 box is for

This is the household size, for a home where the mugs are big, the milk flows freely and nobody times the steep to the second. One bag, one mug, so 160 bags is 160 cups. For a house of two or three drinking

several mugs a day that is a sensible stock; a single drinker may prefer a smaller box that is finished while it is still fresh.

Know what you are buying, too. It is the ordinary Yorkshire blend: caffeinated, blended rather than single-origin, and distinct from the hard-water edition. The label lists [black tea](#) and names none of the major allergens. If someone in the house drinks [decaf](#), the Decaffeinated Yorkshire box of 160 is the matching choice for the same cupboard.

The packs we stock

- [Taylors of Harrogate Yorkshire Tea 160, 500g](#)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Taylors of Harrogate Yorkshire Tea 160, 500g names none of the 14 major allergens. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Black Tea.

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 eat with it

- [McVitie's Dark Chocolate Digestive Biscuits, 266g](#): a dark [chocolate](#) digestive with the heft to match a strong, milky Yorkshire mug.
- [McVitie's Rich Tea Biscuits, 300g](#): the classic quick [dunk](#) for a big mug of builder's tea.
- [McVitie's Digestives Seriously Chocolatey Biscuits, 250g](#): plenty of chocolate against plenty of tannin, a good match for a full four-minute steep.
- [Border Dark Chocolate Ginger Organic Biscuits, 150g](#): ginger and dark chocolate have the warmth to stand beside a deep, coppery cup.

Elsewhere in the Taylors of Harrogate range

- [Taylors of Harrogate After Dark Roast Ground Coffee, 200g](#)
- [Taylors of Harrogate Brasilia Ground Coffee, 200g](#)
- [Taylors of Harrogate Decaffe Beans Roast Coffee, 200g](#)
- [Taylors of Harrogate Decaffe Ground, 10 Coffee Bags](#)
- [Taylors of Harrogate Decaffé Roast Ground Coffee, 200g](#)
- [Taylors of Harrogate Decaffeinated Yorkshire, 160 Tea Bags 500g](#)

The full range is on the [Taylors of Harrogate brand page](#).

FAQ

Why is Yorkshire Tea stronger than other everyday teas? Mainly leaf weight. Each bag in this box holds about 3.1g, so there is more tea in the same water and the cup keeps its shape with milk.

How long should I steep Yorkshire Tea? Four minutes with milk, three without. Past five, the cup gets harsh rather than stronger.

Will one bag make a large mug? Yes. The heavier bag holds up in a 400ml mug, so there is no need for a second.

Can I drink it black? Yes, with a shorter steep of three minutes. The blend is designed around milk, so a long black brew can taste heavy.

Is this the hard-water Yorkshire Tea? No. This is the standard blend; the hard-water version is a separate product with its own name.

Curator's note: One bag, the biggest mug in the cupboard, four minutes, then milk. Resist the second bag: this one has enough leaf to do the job alone. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Yorkshire Tea 160: Why One Bag Fills a Big Mug

Field	Detail
Brand	Taylors of Harrogate
Packs we stock	500g
Category	Everyday Tea Bags
Allergens (as published)	The published ingredient list for this product names none of the 14 major allergens.
Caffeine	caffeinated
Leaf per bag	About 3.1g
Steep	Four minutes with milk, three black
Mug size	Up to 400ml on one bag

More from the tea wiki

- [Yorkshire Tea: Range and Buying Guide](#)
- [How to Make Tea Properly: The Eight Step Method](#)
- [Caffeine in Tea](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Builders' Tea: The Working Class Story](#)

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