

Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated: why decaf tastes weak and how to fix it

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated: why decaf tastes weak and how to fix it, in summary:

Tetley's everyday decaf carries the same generous fill per bag as the full-caFFEINE version, so a thin cup is usually a timing problem. Give it four to five minutes, not three, and never reach for a second bag.

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

Most weak [decaf](#) has simply been brewed on a caffeinated timer. The decaffeination process alters how quickly the leaf releases flavour, so this box needs a minute or two longer than habit suggests, and it rewards the wait.

The fill is not the problem

The label lists a single ingredient, decaffeinated [black tea](#), and the 80-bag box weighs 250g, about 3.1g a bag. That matches a full-caFFEINE Tetley everyday bag rather than a lightened one, so there is a proper dose in every mug. When people call decaf thin, the leaf is rarely at fault; it is nearly always three minutes of habit applied to a tea that needs more.

What decaffeination does take is the bright top note, the lift you smell from a fresh caffeinated cup. That never fully returns, and it is fair to say so. The malt, being heavier, survives far better, which is why this works so well as a plain everyday blend with milk. The weight and warmth of a normal mug are there; only the sparkle is quieter.

Time, not a second bag

Use water straight off the boil and give the bag four to five minutes. Because a decaf has a softer grip, it copes with the longer steep and stays smooth, whereas a full-strength builder's brew left that long would go hard. Resist putting two bags in one mug. A double dose makes a muddy cup rather than a stronger one, and an extra minute achieves what the second bag cannot.

Milk suits it. There is enough malt and body to carry a proper splash, so the mug looks and tastes like everyday tea rather than a pale imitation. Add the milk once the bag is out. If what you want in the evening is the ritual of a milky mug, the kettle and the pause, this keeps all of that and takes out most of the [caffeine](#).

Choosing the box, and what decaf means

The 80-bag box suits a household where one or two people switch to decaf in the evening. The 160 is for a home where decaf is the main tea, or where several people drink it through the day. For a smoother, gentler decaf from the same brand, Tetley's Smooth Decaf Finest is the alternative; for a full-caffeine everyday mug, Tetley Everyday.

Decaffeinated means the caffeine has been reduced, not removed, and a trace remains in any decaf tea. If you need to avoid caffeine altogether, the better choice is a [rooibos](#) or another herbal infusion rather than a decaf black tea. For everyone else, this is a full-bodied everyday mug that happens to have most of its caffeine taken out.

The packs we stock

- [Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated, 160 Tea Bags](#) (barcode 5000208097739)
- [Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated, 80 Tea Bags 250g](#) (barcode 5000208002450)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated, 80 Tea Bags 250g (barcode 5000208002450) names none of the 14 major allergens. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Decaffeinated black tea.

Ingredient and nutrition data for this barcode: [Open Food Facts \(openfoodfacts.org\)](https://openfoodfacts.org), ODbL. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to eat with it

- [McVitie's Rich Tea Biscuits, 300g](#): The classic evening dunker: plain and light, it lets the malt of a longer-brewed decaf come through.
- [McVitie's Hobnobs Dark Chocolate Biscuits The Oaty One, 262g](#): An oaty dark [chocolate](#) biscuit with enough character to stand beside a malty, milky mug.
- [McVitie's Ginger Nuts Biscuits, 250g](#): Ginger adds a warm, spicy lift beside a decaf whose own bright top note is quieter than usual.

Elsewhere in the Tetley range

- [Tetley 75 x Black Smooth Decaf Finest, 237g](#)
- [Tetley Everyday, Softpack, 240 Tea Bags](#)

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

FAQ

Is Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated caffeine free? No. The caffeine has been cut back rather than taken out entirely, and a trace remains; a rooibos or herbal infusion is the choice if you need none.

Why does my decaf taste weak? Usually because it was brewed for three minutes like a caffeinated bag. Give it four to five minutes and it fills out.

Should I use two bags for a stronger cup? No. Two bags make a decaf muddy rather than stronger; add a minute instead.

Does it take milk? Yes. The malt survives decaffeination well, so there is body to carry a proper splash.

How many mugs does the 80-bag box make? Eighty, one bag to a mug, and the 160-bag box doubles that.

Curator's note: Set a timer for five minutes the first time and you will stop calling decaf thin. Milk in after the bag comes out, and a Rich Tea on the saucer. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Tetley Everyday Decaffeinated: why decaf tastes weak and how to fix it

Field	Detail
Brand	Tetley
Packs we stock	160 Tea Bags; 80 Tea Bags 250g
Category	Everyday Tea Bags
Allergens (as published)	The published ingredient list for this barcode names none of the 14 major allergens.
Caffeine	decaffeinated
Brew	Four to five minutes, off the boil
Milk	Yes, a proper splash
Best time	Evening, or all day in a decaf household

More from the tea wiki

- [Tetley: Caffeine Levels by Product](#)
- [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](#)

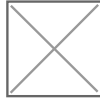
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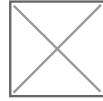
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