Buying Tea in Bulk

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Buying tea in bulk, in summary:** Buying tea in bulk drops the per cup price 30-50%. When a 240 bag family pack really does pay, and the freshness caveat that decides it.

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

Buying tea in bulk drops the per cup price by 30-50% compared to small packs. A 240-bag Yorkshire Tea pack works out at £0.04 per cup compared to £0.07 for the 80-bag. For high consumption households, offices, cafes, and B2B accounts, bulk is the obvious move. This page covers the smart bulk buy options without falling into the "buy a pallet you'll never finish" trap.

Bulk options worth buying

Yorkshire Tea 240-bag pack, £0.04/cup (vs £0.07 for 80s). Lasts a household 2-3 months. Pack stays fresh, Yorkshire ages well in sealed packaging. The pragmatic household bulk pick.

Yorkshire Tea 480-bag pack, £0.04/cup. Office or large family. 4-6 months for a 4-person household.

Tetley 240/480-bag, £0.03-0.04/cup. Cheaper than Yorkshire by a small margin. Office canteen / café standard.

PG Tips 240/480, £0.04/cup. Same logic.

Twinings English Breakfast 100s/200s, £0.05/cup. Twinings doesn't go as low as the supermarket leaders even at bulk size, but the cup is more refined.

Loose leaf bulk (250g+), £0.10-0.30/cup depending on grade. Yorkshire Loose Leaf 250g, Twinings loose, Whittard loose tins. Significant per cup saving over bagged equivalent if you brew loose leaf regularly.

The "don't bulk buy" list

Some teas don't bulk well:

- **Premium loose leaf greens (Sencha, Long Jing).** Oxidise faster than blacks; lose flavour after 3-4 months even sealed. Buy in 100g amounts.
- **White tea.** Same issue, most volatile. Buy 50-100g.
- **Specialised flavoured teas (chai latte sachets, fruit infusions).** Flavour compounds degrade faster than tea base. 6-month max.

- **Decaf.** The decaffeination process slightly accelerates oxidation. 6-12 months.

Storage for bulk

Bulk tea requires proper storage to retain freshness:

- **Original packaging or sealed tin.** Tea oxidises with air exposure.
- **Cool, dry, dark.** Heat above 25°C accelerates flavour loss; humidity above 65% risks mould; sunlight degrades colour.
- **Away from strong smells.** Tea picks up odours, don't store near coffee, spices, onions, or cleaning products.
- **Best before dates are guidance.** Properly stored black tea is fine 12-18 months past the date; properly stored green tea is past its peak by then.

For offices / B2B

Office tea consumption: typical 4-person team = 12-15 cups daily = ~300 cups per month. A 480-pack lasts ~6 weeks. Buying two 480-packs every quarter is the rough maths. We supply UK offices with bulk tea and biscuits regularly, contact us for invoiced B2B accounts (no minimum, free UK delivery over £35).

The savings maths

Pack	Cost	Per cup
Yorkshire 80s	£5.49	£0.07
Yorkshire 240s	£9.99	£0.04
Yorkshire 480s	£17.99	£0.04

For a 5-cup per day household: £0.07 × 5 × 365 = £128/year on 80-packs. Same drinking on 480-packs: £73/year. Saves £55 annually with no quality compromise.

FAQ

What's the cheapest bulk tea UK? Tetley 480-pack at ~£0.03/cup or Yorkshire 480-pack at ~£0.04/cup. Hyson Premium Breakfast in larger packs is competitive on quality per price.

Does bulk tea go off? Black tea: 18-24 months sealed in cool dry storage. Green and white: 6-12 months for peak flavour. Bulk only if you'll drink it within these windows.

Best bulk loose leaf for offices? Yorkshire Loose Leaf 250g, Twinings English Breakfast loose, or Hyson Premium Breakfast loose for value.

Curator's note: bulk tea makes economic sense if you drink 4+ cups a day. Below that, fresh smaller packs win on flavour. Match the pack to actual consumption. Lee, teas.co.uk.

The thread through all of it: bulk pays on a steady everyday black you reliably drink, not on an occasional specialty that fades before you finish it, the per cup logic set out in cost per cup. Buy the everyday base from Yorkshire Tea or the full tea shop.

Same shelf, same shop: the English tea range and loose leaf range.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Test a small pack of the tea before you commit to a big one. Go large only when you know you like it.

Companion buying reading

- Cost per cup explained
- How to store tea
- How long tea lasts
- Loose leaf tea

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
- Black tea
- Oolong tea
- White tea
- Herbal tea
- Caffeine in tea
- How to make tea properly
- Loose leaf vs teabag

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