PG Tips Loose Leaf

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **PG Tips Loose Leaf, in summary:** PG Tips Loose Leaf is the same Kenyan-led blend in a larger leaf grade. Why it brews better than the bag, how to pair it, and what to compare against.

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

PG Tips loose leaf is the bag brand going whole leaf, a meaningful step up from PG Tips Original tea bags. Loose leaf British black tea brewed in a teapot delivers a noticeably better cup than the bag equivalent.

Why PG Tips makes a loose leaf product

Most British drinkers buy bags. But the loose leaf market exists for:

- Premium tier daily drinkers
- Tea pot users (especially older drinkers)
- Guests / visitor cups
- Hospitality / catering
- Drinkers exploring quality upgrade without leaving familiar brand

PG Tips' loose leaf offering serves this market within the brand loyal customer base.

What it is

PG Tips loose leaf is the standard PG Tips blend in larger leaf format:

- Same Assam/Kenyan/Sri Lankan blend approach
- Larger leaf pieces (vs bag fannings)
- Better aromatic preservation
- Multiple infusions possible (limited; CTC tea is built for one cup)
- Slightly more expensive per cup than bags

What it tastes like

Recognisably PG Tips character, strong, malty, milk friendly, but with slightly more aromatic complexity than the bag version. The whole leaf preservation matters for the brewing experience even if the underlying blend is similar.

How to brew

1. 1 heaped tsp per 200ml in a teapot.
2. Pre warm the pot.
3. Pour boiling water over the leaves.
4. Steep 4-5 minutes.
5. Strain into mugs.
6. Add milk and sugar to taste.

Loose leaf vs bag, same brand, different cup

Attribute	PG Tips Bag	PG Tips Loose
Convenience	Higher	Slightly less
Cup quality	Standard	Slight improvement
Cost per cup	£0.04	£0.08-0.12
Aromatic complexity	Limited	More
Multiple infusions	1 (or weak 2nd)	2 weak infusions possible
Equipment	Mug	Teapot or infuser

The "PG Tips loose leaf vs specialty single origin" question

If you're going loose leaf, why not go premium specialty rather than mainstream brand?

- **Familiar brand:** If you love PG Tips bags, loose leaf preserves the cup character you know.
- **Cost:** PG Tips loose costs less than premium specialty.
- **Reliability:** Consistent year to year vs single origin specialty's harvest variability.
- **Daily driver:** Designed for daily milk and sugar drinking.

vs specialty single origin (Darjeeling estate, Ceylon estate):

- Distinct character vs blended consistency
- Premium pricing vs mainstream
- Multiple infusion potential vs limited
- Speciality teas reward black drinking; PG Tips wants milk

Caffeine

50-55mg per 200ml cup. Standard PG Tips range; loose leaf brewing extracts slightly more than bag.

Use cases

- Weekend afternoon tea (when bag tea convenience isn't necessary)
- Visitor tea / "best teapot" moments
- British drinker upgrading from bag without changing brand identity
- Older drinkers who never adopted tea bags
- Catering / hospitality

Buying

PG Tips loose leaf is less common than PG Tips bags but available at:

- Major UK supermarkets (selected)
- Specialist tea retailers
- Online direct from PG Tips

Storage

Loose leaf has BETTER storage stability than bags because the leaves haven't been broken into fast degrading small pieces. 12-18 months in airtight container.

Cautions

Standard British black tea cautions, caffeine, iron absorption, pregnancy considerations.

FAQ

Is PG Tips loose leaf better than the bags? Modestly, slightly more aromatic complexity. Same blend approach.

Worth the extra effort? For weekend / guest cups yes; for weekday rush, bags are fine.

Cost? Roughly 2-3× per cup vs bags.

Compared to specialty single origin? Different positioning. PG Tips loose preserves familiar brand character; specialty single origin offers distinct estate character.

Best for whom? PG Tips drinkers wanting upgrade without changing brand identity.

Curator's note: PG Tips loose leaf is a meaningful upgrade from the bag for the same brand identity. Worth it if you love PG Tips and want occasional upgrade. For more dramatic improvement, specialty single origin loose leaf is the route. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

What to buy now

To compare PG Tips Loose Leaf with named-origin alternatives, sample a quality Kenyan single-estate black tea, an Assam single origin, and an English Breakfast loose leaf from an independent. Brew all three at the same strength for three minutes; PG Tips Loose Leaf sits between the brisk Kenyan and the malty Assam, leaning Kenyan, which is the brand's house position. Pair with a quality Brown Betty teapot for the everyday brew.

Pair it with the PG Tips range.

Reference noted

- EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine (2015)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Start with the cheap PG loose leaf and stay there until something better calls. Most rich teas reward patience, not budget.

PG Tips loose leaf reading

For brand context see the PG Tips deep dive. For the source teas see the Kenyan tea guide and the Assam tea piece. For comparison brands see the Yorkshire Tea, Twinings, and Tetley deep dives.

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
- Black tea
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- Herbal tea
- Caffeine in tea
- How to make tea properly
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