PG Tips Scottish Blend

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **PG Tips Scottish Blend, in summary:** PG Tips Scottish Blend is reformulated for soft Scottish water: more Assam, maltier cup. Why it tastes different from regular PG Tips, and where to buy.

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

PG Tips Scottish Blend is the brand's specifically formulated tea for soft water Scotland, a different blend ratio designed to brew well in mineral light water that strips strong tea blends. Niche product; serves a real market need.

The water hardness problem

British water varies dramatically by region:

- **Hard water (most of England, especially South East and Midlands):** Mineral heavy. Strong tea blends recommended; tea sometimes tastes "flat."
- **Soft water (Scotland, parts of North West England, parts of Wales):** Mineral light. Standard strong blends can taste sharp or astringent. Lighter blends preferred.

The same tea brand brewed in different waters produces noticeably different cups.

What PG Tips Scottish Blend is

A reformulated blend designed to brew well in soft Scottish water:

- Lighter blend ratio than standard PG Tips
- Less Assam, more lighter character teas (Ceylon, Indonesian)
- Less astringency in the cup
- Designed for Scottish supermarket distribution

Yorkshire Tea has a similar product (Yorkshire Tea for Hard Water, formulated for the opposite conditions).

What it tastes like

Smoother, less astringent than standard PG Tips when brewed in soft water. In hard water, Scottish Blend tastes thin and weak. Really different products for different water.

How to brew

1. 1 bag per 200ml.
2. Water at full rolling boil.
3. Steep 3-4 minutes (slightly shorter than standard PG Tips).
4. Add milk and sugar to taste.

Where it sells

Primarily Scottish supermarkets. Available across UK via online retailers. Limited distribution in England.

The verdict

If you live in soft water Scotland and standard PG Tips tastes "off," the Scottish Blend really does solve the problem. The blend reformulation is real, not just marketing.

If you live in hard water England, this product will taste thin. Choose Yorkshire Tea Hard Water or standard PG Tips instead.

Caffeine

40-50mg per 200ml cup. Standard British black tea range.

Comparable products

- **Yorkshire Tea for Hard Water.** Reverse approach, formulated for hard water regions.
- **Scottish Blend (Williamson Tea).** Specialist Scottish tea brand.
- **Brodies Scottish Breakfast.** Premium Scottish blended tea.

Why most brands don't do regional water blends

Most British tea brands sell one blend for all UK water conditions. PG Tips and Yorkshire Tea making water specific variants is unusual and reflects:

- Brand loyalty marketing (Scottish drinkers wanting Scottish blend)
- Real water condition cup quality differences
- Volume to justify separate production lines

Buying outside Scotland

If you want PG Tips Scottish Blend in hard water England, online ordering is the practical option. Some specialist tea retailers stock it. Cup quality in hard water won't match the Scotland experience but works.

Cautions

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

FAQ

Is PG Tips Scottish Blend different from PG Tips Original? Yes, reformulated blend ratios for soft Scottish water.

Should I buy it in England? Generally no, it's designed for soft water brewing. In hard water England, standard PG Tips or Yorkshire Tea Hard Water are better.

Caffeine? 40-50mg per cup, standard range.

Best for whom? Scottish drinkers in soft water regions who want optimised cup quality.

Why does water hardness matter? Mineral content affects how tea compounds extract and present in the cup.

Curator's note: PG Tips Scottish Blend is a niche product for a real market need. Most British drinkers don't realise water hardness affects their tea cup; if you've moved between regions and noticed your tea tastes different, water is usually why. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Quick reference: PG Tips Scottish Blend

Field	Detail
Use	Reformulated PG Tips for Scottish (soft) water
Blend	Heavier on Assam to add malt and body that soft water otherwise lifts away
Cup character	Maltier and rounder than standard PG Tips; closer to Yorkshire Tea cup profile
Best in	Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Devon, much of NW England (all soft-water regions)
Wider market	Often sold in Northern Ireland and parts of the Midlands too; check supermarket regional stock

What to buy now

If you live in Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Devon, or any soft-water region and find your standard British tea is reading too light, PG Tips Scottish Blend is one of the cheapest test fixes (around £3 for 80 bags vs £2.20 for standard). Compare with a Yorkshire Tea brewed in soft water (closer in cup profile to Scottish Blend than to standard PG Tips), and a quality Assam single origin to taste what the Assam-led house style is approximating. A Brown Betty teapot brings out the blend's character best.

Reference noted

- NHS: Water, drinks and your health

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Buy the blend that suits your water, not the label. Explore the wider PG range once you know what your tap likes.

Scottish Blend reading

For brand context see the PG Tips deep dive. For the water question see the tea in hard water piece and the water for tea guide. For comparison see the Yorkshire Tea deep dive and the traditional breakfast blends overview.

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