

## Re: Chemically removing tea stains from china

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.chem/2004-11/1303.html>

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**From:** Muhammad (*muhammad\_at\_hotmail.com*)

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Tea deposits are oxidized tannin salts. They are polyphenolic and dissolve in alkalic solutions. Try a diluted (1-5%) aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (lye). It works like a charm.

Since calcium and magnesium in water are the culprits of the tea tannin precipitation and since they also spoil the flavor of tea, try to make tea from de-ionised water. (The tea always tastes better in the mountains because water there is soft.)

"Maarten D. de Jong" <this.address@is.invalid> wrote in message news:<cnvss8\$755\$1@news.tudelft.nl>...

> *My girlfriend has a beautiful china tea pot which is proving very diffi-*  
> *cult to physically clean on the inside. As a result, there is an increasing*  
> *amount of tea stains building up there. Is there a way to remove these with*  
> *chemical means? Even a partial removal would be an improvement at this stage.*  
>  
>  
> *With kind regards,*  
> *Maarten*