



HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSIBILITY

From The Republic of Tea Charter, adopted March 16, 1994: *We are mindful of the impact that our actions and business activities have on our communities and environment and are conscientious to act in a long-term and responsible manner.*

The Republic of Tea is a progressive, environmentally and socially conscious business that works to elevate consumers' consciousness of wasteful packaging and the opportunities for reuse and recycling. We embody the ancient Chinese philosophy of *Ta shun* -- the Great Harmony -- which manifests itself when people naturally care about the world and depend on each other for the well-being of the whole. It is a collective concern for others and aspiration to seek opportunities, initiatives and actions that will better the human condition as well as the planet.

Premium Teas and Herbs

The Republic of Tea procures only the best tasting tea grown at the premier tea gardens of the world, where the company has long-term supply partnerships. The teas are naturally processed using no foreign materials or additives. Teas are tested for pesticide residues as well as all other known matter. All teas also undergo stringent quality assurance processes at the garden level prior to shipment and again upon arrival at our domestic packaging facility, throughout the production process.

Unbleached Tea Bag Paper - Free of Unnecessary Strings, Tags and Staples

The Republic of Tea's signature-round tea bags have always been made from unbleached tea paper, free of unnecessary strings, tags and staples. This unbleached tea paper is free of chemicals; no chlorine-containing compounds are used. Further, The Republic of Tea's tea bag paper is Non-GMO Project verified, gluten free and kosher (Passover) certified. For every 1 million tea bags of The Republic of Tea sipped, 60 pounds of staples, 47 miles of string and 1 million paper tags are saved from landfills.

Steel

The Republic of Tea's cylindrical steel tea tins are airtight, recyclable and reusable (steel containers are the most recycled packages on Earth, Source: https://www.sks-bottle.com/Recycle_Metal.html). As noted labels, Citizens (consumers) are encouraged to use existing tins to store refills--or anything they like. Steel is a versatile commodity that plays a major part in everyday life -- it is used in applications ranging from food cans and household containers to automobiles and office buildings. For many years, steel has been a commonly recycled material in North America and throughout the world. Efficiently managing and recycling used steel products is important to maximize the utility of this commodity. Recovering steel not only saves money, but also dramatically reduces the energy consumption required to make steel from virgin materials. In turn, this reduces the amount of greenhouse gases released during processing and manufacturing steel from virgin ore. (Source: Environmental Protection Agency)

Shipping Materials

The company's packing and shipping practices center on minimalism, simplicity and the elimination of excess. For all shipments, the principal packing material is reclaimed tea paper supplemented by GEAMI or EXPANDOS, 100 percent recyclable packaging products. The natural packing materials not only protect fine tea and sipware, it allows The Republic of Tea to use smaller shipping boxes, which results in saving fossil fuels (both from tires and diesel gas) and pollution in transportation.

Decaffeination Process

Each of The Republic of Tea's decaffeinated teas are naturally decaffeinated using an environmentally friendly CO₂ / high-pressure process (no commercial chemical extraction). Leaves are lightly soaked and then flushed with CO₂; when it dissipates, it removes caffeine while retaining the tea's healthful properties and rich flavor.

Glass

The Republic of Tea offers Citizens a variety of packaging options, from full-leaf bulk bags and tea bag tins, to ready-to-drink glass bottled iced teas and miniature Traveler's Tea Tins. It is up to the individual person or business to make the decision as to what type of packaging to purchase. The standards often set by fine dining restaurants across the United States and the expectations of their guests, often require a ready-to-drink iced tea in a glass bottle, as in the case of The Republic of Tea's Glass Bottled Iced Teas. These signature glass bottles contain 20-25% recycled glass. A glass bottle is the very best way to preserve the integrity, quality and freshness of premium iced tea. Further, glass is one of the world's most recycled materials.

Bisphenol A (BPA)

The Republic of Tea will only offer Sipware that is certified 100% Bisphenol (BPA) free.

Ethical Tea Partnership

The Republic of Tea is a founding member of the Ethical Tea Partnership, the non-commercial alliance of major tea packing companies working together to promote social responsibility in the world tea trade and to ensure the ethical sourcing of tea. Find out more at: www.ethicalteapartnership.org

The Climate Collaborative

The Republic of Tea is a member of The Climate Collaborative, a project of OSC2 and SFTA to catalyze bold climate action among natural products companies. The Climate Collaborative brings manufacturers, retailers, brokers, distributors and suppliers together to build existing climate solutions to scale and to find innovative, new ways to help reverse climate change. Follow along at <https://www.climatecollaborative.com/>

Upcycled Food Association

The Republic of Tea is a proud member of the Upcycled Food Association (UFA), a nonprofit focused on reducing food waste by growing the upcycled food economy. It was created in 2019 by upcycled food companies themselves, who recognized the power of collaboration in growing a successful food category and environmental movement. In addition to providing its Citizens with ideas on ways to upcycle their signature unbleached tea bags and specially-designed tea tins made from 30-50% recycled steel, The Republic of Tea celebrates the spirit of upcycling with its Root to Petal Teas. These delightfully sustainable teas use every part of the plant. Nothing is wasted, including harvest by-products such as roots, twigs, stems, leaves and pods. Learn more at <https://www.upcycledfood.org/>

American Herbal Products Association

The Republic of Tea is a member of the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), founded in 1982 as the national trade association and voice of the herbal products industry. Comprised of more than 350 member companies, AHPA's mission is to promote the responsible commerce of herbal products to ensure that consumers continue to enjoy informed access to a wide variety of herbal goods. More information can be found at <http://www.ahpa.org>

Tableware Safety

The Republic of Tea tableware (called Sipware) is thoroughly examined and accredited by a globally recognized product safety testing organization before the goods are permitted to leave the factory in the country of origin. Tableware (Sipware) is in compliance with all safety, regulatory and government standards including tests for safe harbor levels of lead and cadmium. Further, all of The Republic of Tea

tableware (Sipware) meets The U.S. Food and Drug Administration national requirements before it is sold in the United States; in accordance with California Proposition 65.

Certified Gluten-Free

The Republic of Tea is the first tea company in the United States to be certified by the Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO), ensuring all of our full-leaf and bagged teas are free of gluten and possible cross-contamination from gluten. The GFCO, a program of the Gluten Intolerance Group® (GIG), is the first program of its kind in the world to supervise the manufacturing and testing protocol of companies that market gluten-free (GF) foods, for the purpose of offering consumers a third-party assurance of safety. This independent food processing inspection program will verify food products meet the highest standards for GF ingredients and are produced in a safe environment.

Kosher Certification by the Orthodox Union

Many of The Republic of Tea teas are Kosher Certified by the Orthodox Union (OU). The OU is the world's largest and most widely recognized kosher certification agency, certifying more than 400,000 products produced in over 6,000 plants located in 80 countries around the world. Many of the food industry's most recognized brands, large and small, choose the OU for their kosher certification. Active for over two centuries, the OU Kosher is unique among all the major kosher certification agencies as it is part of a non-profit communal organization (founded in 1898), so they maintain the highest levels of integrity without any possible conflict of interest. The organization ensures the highest standard of Kosher Certification. The OU mark is featured on all of The Republic of Tea's kosher teas. Every glass bottled, ready-to-drink iced teas are certified kosher by the OU.

USDA Organic Certification

The Republic of Tea procures organics teas and herbs whenever possible. In addition, the brand features several teas certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). All leaves, herbs and botanicals that are certified organic are meticulously inspected. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has uniform guidelines and strict standards farmers, manufacturers and importers must adhere to in order to be certified organic. The offering of organic teas and herbs is certified organic by Quality Assurance International (QAI), an independent service organization developed specifically for the purpose of certifying the authenticity of organically grown produce. Cultivated with a zealous adherence to organic regulations, these teas are grown without the use of synthetic chemicals or pesticides, using only sustainable agricultural methods.

Non-GMO Project Verification

The Republic of Tea has received Non-GMO Project verification for many of its premium teas and herbs. The Non-GMO Project offers North America's only independent verification for products made according to rigorous best practices for GMO (genetically modified organisms) avoidance. Its verified products are produced in compliance with the Non-GMO Project Standard – that means it must follow rigorous best practices for GMO avoidance, including segregation and traceability to prevent contamination. The Republic of Tea is in the process of obtaining Non-GMO Project verification for an array of additional premium teas and herbs.

Demeter Biodynamic Certification

The goal of Biodynamic® agriculture is to create a self-sustaining farm that is minimally dependent on imported materials. By focusing on ecological and holistic practices, farms are able to improve the soil health, water quality and biodiversity year after year. To receive Demeter Biodynamic® Certification, farms must meet the following requirements as per the Demeter Farm and Processing Standards: agronomic guidelines, greenhouse management, structural components, livestock guidelines, and post-harvest handling and processing procedures. The Republic of Tea offers a collection of premium, organic teas sourced from a variety of Demeter Certified Biodynamic® farms around the world that are committed to certain sustainable practices that improve the health of the farm's entire ecosystem.

Safety Testing

The Republic of Tea sources only the highest-quality tea grown in the premier tea gardens in the world. From the Wuyi Mountains of China to the island of Sri Lanka, we treasure our long-term relationships with each supplier. All of our teas are naturally produced. All of our teas are inspected and undergo the most stringent of quality assurance processes at the garden level before they are shipped. Once they arrive at our packaging facility, they are inspected again. We take this process very seriously to ensure that we're providing our Citizens with the highest quality and safest teas from each unique origin.

All-Natural Flavorings

All-natural flavorings used in The Republic of Tea teas and tea-inspired products meet the requirements as outlined in Federal Drug Administration 21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)Part 101.22(a)(3). The flavorings used by The Republic of Tea are all natural, allergen free and manufactured by steam distillation extraction only; no chemical additives or preservatives are used. The flavorings are produced and handled without the use of genetic engineering or irradiation.

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