

Yixing Teapot Q&A

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Q: Are Yixing Purple Clay teapots made in many places in China?

A: Nope, only the teapots made in Dingshu County, Yixing by using locally mined Yixing clay can be called Yixing Purple Clay teapots, the teapots made elsewhere can only be called Purple Clay Ceramics teapots.

Q: Are the raw materials for Yixing teapots mined directly from underground?

A: Nope, the raw materials for Yixing teapots are actually stones initially, they have to be grounded, and then aged years in water before they become the clay.

Q. Are old Yixing teapots much better than new ones?

A. Not necessarily. The old Yixing teapots may be made by using good raw materials, but most of their workmanship is usually poor. The values of many new Yixing teapots are higher than old ones.

Q. Is an Yixing teapot made by a famous pot master more valuable?

A. Not necessarily. The fancy title of a pot master does not guarantee the quality, nor the value of the teapots he/she made. The good raw materials and good workmanship is the key.

Q. Is it true a green tea is better brewed by using glassware than an Yixing teapot?

A. It's not true. An Yixing teapot is good for brewing any kind of tea to bring out the best.

Q. The rumor has it, the raw materials for Yixing teapot are almost run out?

A. Not true, the raw materials for Yixing teapot are available in large quantity, properly good for hundreds of years to come. It is true some of the best mines were locked down by the authority.

Q. Is the best spot to purchase an Yixing teapot in Yixing?

A. Not necessarily. A few people in Yixing County know about Yixing teapot, the most just live there. Unless you got the connection, and know someone there in Yixing teapot business, you won't get a deal.

Q. Should I clean the teapot inside out after use?

A. We recommend rinsing the inside and cleaning the outside regularly.

Q. What's the best clay to make the best Yixing teapot?

A. There is no best clay per se. The processing and workmanship plays an important role also. The teapot made by using a kind of clay is great for a kind of tea. You be the judge.

Q. Can the teapot aged faster if I don't wash it after brewing?

A. Not a good way to do it. The real ageing should be done properly by clean the pot regularly.

Q. Do I have to use a good tea to age my teapot?

A. Nope. To age a teapot, you have to use the pot properly, frequently and take care of it.

Q. How can I tell an Yixing teapot is fake?

A. 'Fake' Yixing teapots were made since the day one in history. To check the seal under the pot helps little. But a 'fake' teapot is still a teapot, as long as it was made by using decent materials by a highly skilled pot master. No matter what, just don't pay a big money for a teapot!

