



**Saving energy  
at home\***

# Saving energy at home

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**LET'S FIX  
TOMORROW, TODAY**



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Fact sheet:

# Controlling energy use



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why controlling energy use at home matters

Controlling heating and power in our homes can help manage energy use, as well as improving comfort and convenience. Devices can help avoid heating an empty home and lights being switched on all day. Smart home technology is increasingly helping us control energy use, but there are also stand-alone devices that can help.

The [Energy Saving Trust has advice](#) on how to use heating controls to reduce energy use. Controls can be used to set up your home's heating, so that it only comes on when needed. Controlling electricity use of lighting and appliances through smart systems, motion detectors, timers and other devices can also help save energy at home.

## Criteria 1:

### How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- All relevant legal requirements
- All Kingfisher policy requirements

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'controlling energy use' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

## Criteria 2:

### Green star programme entry



The criteria for controlling energy use is:

#### Smart home control systems

Technology is enabling increasing levels of home energy control. Smart home controls describe wireless control of devices via hub control, enabling settings to be changed easily, coordination and remote control of devices. Many hub controls can be accessed remotely via smartphone apps. The following product areas are eligible:

- The main (hub) controller (where energy control is a key feature)
- Components designed to help improve energy control, including:
  - Thermostats
  - Motion detectors, presence detectors
  - Smart plugs and sockets
  - Smart LED lighting (must have an energy label rating of D or higher)
  - Smart radiator valves
  - Components that enable or improve renewable energy use
  - Weather detectors and compensators

#### Heating and hot water controls

Heating controls can help manage when your heating turns on and off. The following devices, if installed and set up correctly, can help keep your home comfortable without wasting energy:

- Cylinder and pipe thermostats
- Room thermostats (also known as roomstats)
- Heating and hot water programmers and timers
- Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs)
  - Every radiator except one in a typical home's heating system can have a TRV fitted. A single radiator typically needs to have a valve that is not thermostatic in order for the heating system to work.



- It's not advisable to completely turn off a TRV. Instead, adjust to the frost setting to help stop pipes freezing.
- Weather compensators.

## Thermometers

Suitably located thermometers can help us ensure heating is controlled and working efficiently. The following can highlight where more control may be needed:

- Thermometers should be suitably located for use around the home, the extent to which these are applied will depend on the heating system size, the number of rooms served and their usage.
- Fridge thermometers
  - Fridges should operate between 3°C and 5°C to work efficiently. If operating at a lower temperature, more electricity is used and food can freeze.

## Controlling electrical devices

Devices that enable energy control, such as sockets and extension leads, and address the electricity used by appliances when in standby mode:

- Motion sensors (including passive infra-red controls) and presence detectors
- Photo sensors and dusk-dawn controls
- Remote controls for sockets and lighting
  - These devices can help ensure that lighting and other devices are only switched on when the user actively decides they are needed.
- Timers.

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Heating at home' and 'Lighting at home' factsheets. These focus on the energy efficiency of the device being controlled, for example, efficient LED lighting.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

## Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✓ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✓ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✓ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)



## Watch List Criteria relevant to saving water in the bathroom

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✘ Products designed for use with electric wired underfloor heating (an energy-intensive heating type)
- ✘ Products supplied with single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ Products supplied with non-LED lighting
- ✘ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced
- ✘ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or can't be confirmed as being safe to use.
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✘ Products that contain any wood or paper that does not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy.





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Fact sheet:

# Heating homes



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

### Why heating at home matters

More energy is used for space heating than for any other purpose in our homes. For the EU, it's estimated that [62.8% of a home's energy is used on space heating](#). A further 15.1% is used on water heating.

Using efficient heating products can help to keep energy bills under control.

Understanding how much difference an appliance's settings can make to energy use is also important. Work [done by the University of Salford](#) in 2022 examined setting combination (combi) gas boiler flow temperatures to 60°C in homes. Using a room thermostat, timer or programmer and thermostatic radiator valves can help to improve heating efficiency depending on use.

Choosing the right size appliance is also important. The [Agence de la Transition Ecologique \(Ademe\)](#) estimates that a third of water heated is not used by homes, so opting for a water heater with a smaller capacity can help to reduce hot water waste.

## Criteria 1:

### How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- All relevant legal requirements

- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'Heating Homes' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

## Criteria 2:

### Green star programme entry



The criteria for heating homes is:

#### Heat pumps:

- A heat pump works a bit like a fridge in reverse, taking heat from outdoors into the home. Although electricity is used to move the heat, it requires significantly less electricity than, for example, directly heating the same space with an electric heater:
  - Air source heat pumps
  - Ground source heat pumps
  - Heat pump accessories

#### Micro combined heat and power systems (Micro-CHP):

- These [can generate heat and electricity simultaneously](#) from the same energy source. For example, generating electricity while heating water.

#### Mechanical heat recovery systems:

- Based on ventilation, this type of system uses heat from the air being removed from the home to warm up incoming air.

#### Central heating:

- **Electric boilers with an energy label rating of D or higher:**
  - The higher the energy rating, the more efficient the boiler.
  - Energy ratings for electric boilers use a scale of A to G.
- **Central heating pumps with an Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) of 0.18 or lower:**
  - An efficient circulation pump can help ensure that heating works efficiently.
  - This measurement is defined in the Ecodesign regulations for circulation pumps.

#### Radiators:

- **Wet type underfloor heating:**
  - Wet type underfloor heating heats a space effectively using less energy than what's needed for a traditional wall-hung radiator. This is because it has a larger surface area so can operate with water cooler than 45°C.



- This type of heating works well with air source or ground source heat pumps, as well as with conventional boilers.
  - Please note, there is another form of underfloor heating that uses electric wires instead of hot water pipes. The wired version is energy intensive and is Watch Listed.
- **Radiator foil:**
    - Placed behind a radiator on an external wall, radiator foil can help reflect heat back into the room instead of escaping the home.
  - **Radiator keys:**
    - Radiator keys are used to maintain radiators, ‘bleeding’ air out of the heating system. This helps keep radiators working efficiently.

#### **Electric heaters:**

- Electric heaters fitted with an integrated thermostatic control and timer or programmer that use either a radiant panel or inertia technology.

#### **Hot water:**

- **Electric water heaters with an energy label A rating or higher:**
  - Choosing an efficient water heater can help reduce energy consumption.
  - The Agence de la Transition Ecologique (Ademe) also highlights the importance of choosing the right size water heater for your needs – the agency estimates that a third of water heated is not used.
- **Hot water insulation:**
  - Cylinder jackets:
    - These should be considered for water heaters, as well as hot water storage cylinders.
  - Insulated hot water cylinders
  - Pipe insulation

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star ‘Controlling energy use’ and ‘Insulating at home’ factsheets. For heating, controlling boilers, radiators, heaters and water heaters can be key to managing these devices’ energy consumption.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

### **Reviewing and confirming green star status**

- ✔ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✔ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✔ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

## Watch List Criteria relevant to heating at home

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✘ Products supplied with single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ Wired underfloor heating because this is an energy-intensive form of heating
- ✘ Outdoor heating products
- ✘ Products powered by coal, peat, paraffin, or oil
- ✘ Products powered by burning wood (air pollution concerns)
- ✘ Components made from paper or wood that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy
- ✘ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✘ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.





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Fact sheet:

# Insulating homes



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why insulating at home matters

The Energy Saving Trust has found that [a quarter of a UK home's heat can be lost through the roof](#) if the property has no insulation. About [one third of UK homes that have a loft do not have adequate loft insulation](#). The [Energy Saving Trust](#) has worked to highlight the home improvements that householders should consider to help save energy. These include reducing home heat loss through insulation, thermally efficient doors and windows, and draughtproofing. Its website includes practical advice on how to effectively insulate your home.

[Ademe](#), L'Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie has found that in France, 25-30% of heat in an uninsulated home can be lost through the roof, 20-25% through the walls and 7-10% through the floor.

## Criteria 1:

### How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- All relevant legal requirements
- All Kingfisher policy requirements

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Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'insulating homes' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

## Criteria 2:

### Green star programme entry



The criteria for insulating homes is:

#### Insulation:

- Loft, wall and floor insulation:
  - Slab, roll and loose insulation
  - Construction and retrofit insulation
  - All materials used for insulation
    - Many insulation products are made using recycled materials.
    - Please note that multi foil insulation and PIR board insulation is not included.
- Installed insulation services:
  - Installed loft insulation.
  - Installed wall insulation (cavity and/or solid wall)

#### Insulation accessories:

These are products that can either help insulation to be fitted properly, perform more efficiently over a long period or enable insulation to be installed in more locations:

- Membranes that improve loft insulation performance by enabling better moisture regulation. (If made from paper, it should meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy.)
- Insulated loft hatches
- Cavity closers
- Insulation wall tie retaining clips
- Loft stilts that enable storage in an insulated loft by allowing a platform to be constructed over the insulation.

#### Draughtproofing:

Experiencing draughts in the home indicates that heat is being lost somewhere:

- Draughtproofing products:
  - Letter box brushes
  - Under-door brushes
  - Door and window seals
  - Chimney draught excluders, including chimney 'balloons' that reduce draughts when a chimney is not in use.



- Draught excluder cushions
- Installed draughtproofing services.
- Please note that expanded foam draught proofing is excluded.

#### **Doors and windows:**

- Glazed windows and glazed external doors:  $U_w \leq 1.2 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ :
  - The u value is based on thermal transmittance. The lower the u value, the more thermally efficient a product is.
  - The frame should be made from wood or metal. If made from wood, the wood should meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy.
- Unglazed external doors:  $U_w \leq 1.2 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ :
  - The door should be made from wood or metal. If made from wood, the wood should meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy.

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Controlling energy use' and 'Insulating at home' factsheets.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

### **Reviewing and confirming green star status**

- ✓ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✓ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
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To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

### **Watch List Criteria relevant to relevant to insulation**

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✗ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe
- ✗ Wood or paper components that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy.
- ✗ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✗ Products or components of products with chrome VI plating.
- ✗ Products that contain any wood or paper that does not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy.
- ✗ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.



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Fact sheet:

# Kitchen appliances



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why choosing efficient kitchen appliances matter

For EU homes, it's estimated that [cooking accounts for 6.1% of energy use](#). A further 14.5% of energy is used for lighting and other appliances.

For large kitchen appliances, energy rating labels (in use in the UK and EU) are a useful indicator of how energy efficient a product is. The size of a product can also influence the efficiency. For example, a large energy-efficient fridge freezer may be more expensive to run than a smaller less energy-efficient model. The [Energy Saving Trust has calculated](#) that a 265 litre fridge freezer with an energy label G rating could cost 11% less per year to run than a 424 litre fridge freezer with an F rating.

The levels set in this fact sheet are based [on The Label 2020 project](#) that's in place in the UK and 15 of the EU member states. The project includes a 'Best in Class chart that identifies the energy label rating considered to be 'efficient', as well as levels not commonly available yet in Great Britain. Energy labels are in the process of being updated, with label ratings for refrigerators, washing machines, washer-dryers and dishwashers already in place (March 2021) moving from label ratings of A+++ to D to rescaled labels ratings of A to G. Rescaling reflects the development of making appliances more energy efficient.

How we use appliances can also help manage energy use:

- Waiting for a full load before setting a washing machine or dishwasher running.
- Washing clothes at a lower temperature uses less energy than higher temperatures.
- Using a higher spin setting before tumble drying clothes can help the load dry quicker. Otherwise, using an air dryer is the most energy efficient way to dry clothes.

- Setting a fridge's temperature between 3 and 5°C. If operating at a lower temperature, more electricity is used and food can freeze.
- Keeping a freezer full helps it work more efficiently.
- Putting lids on saucepans can help food cook quicker.
- Using a microwave or air fryer to cook food can use less energy than an oven.
- Switching off ovens and cooker hoods directly after use.

Energy rating labels for dishwashers and washing machines also give useful information about water use.

## Criteria 1:



### How we assess green star products

Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'kitchen appliances' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

When a kitchen appliance is replaced, it's important to ensure that the unwanted appliance is responsibly disposed of. Appliances contain significant amounts of recyclable materials, as well as those that can be hazardous. Your local authority can advise on how to recycle any unwanted appliances responsibly.

## Criteria 2:



### Green star programme entry

The criteria for kitchen appliances is:

#### **Induction hobs**

These [are more energy efficient](#) than other electrical types of hob.

### **Kitchen appliances with the following energy ratings:**

- Cooking:
  - Ovens and cookers with an energy label A++ rating or higher (A+++ to D rating)
  - If a cooker has a hob, the hob should be induction.
  - Gas ovens and cookers are excluded.
  - Cooker hoods with an energy label A+ rating or higher (A+++ to D rating)
- Cooling:
  - Fridge freezers with an energy label B rating or higher (A to G rating)
  - Separate fridges and freezers with an energy label D rating or higher (A to G rating)
- Washing:
  - Dishwashers with an energy label B rating or higher (A to G rating)
  - Washing machines with an energy label B rating or higher (A to G rating)
  - Washer dryers with an energy label C rating or higher (A to G rating)
  - Tumble dryers with an energy label A+++ rating (A+++ to D rating)

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Controlling energy use' factsheet.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

### **Reviewing and confirming green star status**

- ✔ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✔ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✔ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

### **Watch List Criteria relevant to kitchen appliances**

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✘ Products supplied with single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ Products supplied with non-LED lighting
- ✘ Electric hobs that do not use induction technology
- ✘ Appliances that do not meet the energy rating levels described as '[efficient](#)' in [The Label 2020 project](#).



- Cooking:
  - Cooker hoods with an energy label B rating or lower (A+++ to D rating)
  - Ovens with an energy label A rating or lower (A+++ to D rating)
- Cooling:
  - Fridges, freezers and wine coolers with an energy label G rating (A to G rating)
  - Fridge freezers with an energy label E rating or lower (A to G rating)
- Washing:
  - Washing machines with an energy label D rating or lower (A to G rating)
  - Washer dryers and dishwashers with an energy label E rating or lower (A to G rating)
  - Tumble dryers with an energy label A++ rating or lower (A+++ to D rating)
- ✘ Appliances with a [L'Indice de Réparabilité](#) (Repairability Index) score of six or lower. This scheme, introduced by the French Government, aims to increase repairability by setting out clear requirements for product classes, scoring every product out of 10. For kitchen appliances, dishwashers and washing machines on sale in France must now be assessed. In time, more product classes will be added to the scheme. Any appliance with a score of six or lower will not be assessed for green star in any of Kingfisher's markets.
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✘ Products or components of products with chrome VI plating.





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Fact sheet:

# Lighting homes



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why choosing efficient lighting at home matters

How we light our homes has changed considerably over the last 20 years. Technology has allowed us to move from incandescent lamps ([that only convert about 5% of the energy they use to light](#)) to halogens, compact fluorescent lighting and then onto LEDs (light emitting diodes), the most efficient lighting type available to households today.

When lighting energy ratings were first introduced, we were able to purchase halogen, fluorescent and incandescent lighting, as well as energy-efficient LED types. LEDs were rated from A+ to A+++, reflecting the light's efficiency compared to other lighting types.

In 2021, the energy ratings were rescaled by the EU and UK as LED became the most prevalent lighting type. [The new energy label gives a rating from A to G](#), based on the luminous flux (lumens) emitted per watt of light. LED bulbs that were once rated as A+, may now be rated as G.

Many homes still use halogen, compact fluorescent or fluorescent and are yet to transfer to LED types. The EU estimates that [continuing to move to more energy efficient lighting will prevent around seven million tonnes of CO2 being emitted every year](#).

When replacing lighting, it's important that you dispose of the old bulb correctly. Some bulbs can be recycled at household waste recycling centres or retailers, such as B&Q.

# Criteria 1:

## How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'kitchen appliances' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

The green star 'Lighting homes' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

# Criteria 2:

## Green star programme entry



The criteria for lighting homes is:

### **Luminaires (including light bulbs, lamps, battens and light fittings supplied with integrated LED lighting):**

- LED with an energy label D rating or higher, based on the rescaled ratings (A to G) launched in 2021.

### **Solar lighting and other battery-operated lighting:**

These lights do not have an Energy Rating as ratings are only required for mains powered lighting:

- LED battery powered outdoor lights (including solar powered and rechargeable lights) if supplied with a motion sensor or photo sensor.
- Rechargeable LED battery operated torches and work lights.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**



## Reviewing and confirming green star status

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- ✔ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✔ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

## Watch List Criteria relevant to lighting at home

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✘ Non-LED lighting, for example halogen and fluorescent lights
- ✘ Products supplied with single-use batteries
- ✘ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced
- ✘ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe
- ✘ Products containing any wood or paper that does not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy
- ✘ Products linked to animal cruelty, including:
  - Products that contain feathers or down unless responsibly sourced (certified recycled or certified by the Responsible Down Standard/ Downpass/Global Traceable Down Standard).
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✘ Products or components of products with chrome VI plating.





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Fact sheet:

# Power tools



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why choosing efficient power tools matter

Although most power tools are used for a short period of time, they still use electricity so energy efficiency should be considered. For tools used for longer periods of time, like lawn mowers, or every day by tradespeople, energy efficiency is even more important.

For cordless power tools, brushless motors are more efficient than brushed types. In a brushed motor, friction creates heat and results in less energy being transferred to the motor. Less friction in a brushless motor means that more energy is transferred to driving the motor. This can mean more usage time between charges. The lower temperature also helps with a tool's durability, as it's less wear on the components.

As well as choosing a brushless motor, opting for a bare tool with shared battery can help reduce the tool's resource use. When assessing the life cycle of a cordless drill, Kingfisher found that one of the largest impacts of the tool's manufacture arose from the battery and charger.

For garden power, switching from petrol to cordless electric tools can help reduce carbon emissions from using the tool, as well as address the levels of pollutants (including nitrogen oxides and particulates).

Both brushed and brushless power tools are widely available for sale.

# Criteria 1:

## How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'power tools' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. Green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

When replacing a power tool, as with any electronic appliance, it's important that you dispose of the old tool correctly. Tools contain significant amounts of recyclable material, as well as materials that can be hazardous.

# Criteria 2:

## Green star programme entry



The criteria for power tools is: the product must have a brushless motor because these are more efficient than brushed types:

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

## Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✓ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✓ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✓ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)



## Watch List Criteria relevant to power tools

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✘ Products supplied with single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ Components made from paper or wood that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy
- ✘ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is not unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe
- ✘ Tools with a [L'Indice de Réparabilité](#) (Repairability Index) score of six or lower. This scheme, introduced by the French Government, aims to increase repairability by setting out clear requirements for product classes, scoring every product out of 10. For power tools, lawn mowers on sale in France must now be assessed. In time, more product classes will be added to the scheme - pressure washers will be added in 2023. Any tool with a score of six or lower will not be assessed for EcoPositive in any of Kingfisher's markets.
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✘ Products or components of products with chrome VI plating.
- ✘ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.





Saving energy  
at home\*

SCREWFIX

Fact sheet:

# Renewable energy



## What it means to choose a green star product

Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

## Why renewable energy matters

There has been increased take up of renewable energy on residential homes. In France, the [capacity of residential photovoltaic \(PV\) energy systems](#) has increased over 4.7 times between 2010 and 2022. In the UK, the [Energy Saving Trust](#) estimates that over 1 million homes now generate electricity from solar or wind. A survey in February 2022 found that [4.5% of homes in northern and southern Spain already have solar photovoltaic panels](#) and over 34% were interested in installing them.

Generating renewable energy creates lower levels of emissions than burning fossil fuels ([United Nations, Climate Action](#)).

Renewable energy includes solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and ocean energy (tidal and waves), but many of these sources are more suitable for non-residential energy generation. Microgeneration sources include solar and wind.

Heat pumps are often classified as renewable as the energy they produce is derived from renewable sources. But as they still require some electricity to operate the pump, they are included in the Heating Homes factsheet.

If a home has solar PV panels, running electrical devices (for example, washing machines and dishwashers) during the day can help to make use of the electricity produced. Timers and smart home controls can help with this. Using a home battery will enable use of the electricity at other times of the day.

# Criteria 1:

## How we assess green star products



Before assessment, every green star product must meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

You can access the [Kingfisher policies here](#). These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'Renewable Energy' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle. This is where the product can bring the biggest benefit to the user across its utilisation, however green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful either as a result of manufacture or end of life disposal.

# Criteria 2:

## Green star programme entry



The criteria for renewable energy is:

### **Solar thermal systems**

- These systems use solar energy to heat water.
- Many systems are designed to use the water heated in a home's taps, showers and baths.

### **Solar photovoltaic systems**

- These systems convert solar energy into electricity.
- Light fittings that include a solar panel are included in the 'Lighting Homes factsheet.

### **Wind turbines**

### **Renewable energy accessories**

- Battery storage
  - A home battery (sometimes called a solar battery) enables more use of energy produced by a home's solar voltaic panels in the home.
- Photovoltaic diverters
- Thermal energy stores

Also, please note that the following are included as criteria, with details in the Heating Homes factsheet:



## Heat pumps

- A heat pump works a bit like a fridge in reverse, taking heat from outdoors into the home. Although electricity is used to move the heat, it requires significantly less electricity than, for example, directly heating the same space with an electric heater:
  - Air source heat pumps
  - Ground source heat pumps
  - Heat pump accessories

## Micro combined heat and power systems (Micro-CHP):

- These can generate heat and electricity simultaneously from the same energy source. For example, generating electricity while heating water.

## Mechanical heat recovery systems:

- Based on ventilation, this type of system uses heat from the air being removed from the home to warm up incoming air.

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Controlling energy use' and 'Insulating at home' factsheets.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be marked with the green star.**

## Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✓ All products nominated and that meet criteria 1 and 2 are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation.
- ✓ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- ✓ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

## Watch List Criteria relevant to Renewable Energy

This list includes features or aspects of products that make them unsuitable to be marked with the green star:

- ✗ Products powered by burning wood (air pollution concerns).
- ✗ Components made from paper or wood that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy.
- ✗ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe.
- ✗ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.
- ✗ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.

