



**Saving water  
at home\***

# Saving water at home

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**LET'S FIX  
TOMORROW, TODAY**



Saving water  
at home\*

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Fact sheet:

# In the bathroom



## 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 bathroom products matters

A bathroom is the part of the home that uses the most water. The [Energy Saving Trust found](#) that in the UK, 22% of a home's total water consumption is used for flushing toilets, 25% for showering, 8% for filling a bath and 7% for using a bathroom's hot tap. In France, [Le Centre d'Information sur l'Eau](#) has estimated that toilets use 20% of a home's water, while baths and showers use 39%.

When we use hot water, we're also using energy, so choosing more efficient showers and taps can help decrease energy bills.

[Le Centre d'Information sur l'Eau](#) has found that a leaking toilet valve can waste as much as 3 litres every hour. Slow leaks are not always obvious either. An easy way to check is to add a little food colouring to the cistern's water, wait for a few minutes, and then check if the walls of the toilet bowl are coloured. [WaterSafe estimates that in the UK](#), 1 in 10 toilets may be leaking.

Dripping taps can also waste a surprisingly large amount of water. [Waterwise has found that a single dripping tap](#) could waste 5,500 litres of water per year. For hot water taps, this could also mean wasted energy. Fixing a tap can be as simple as replacing the tap washer or reseating the tap.

How we use bathroom products can also help manage water use:

- Repairing leaks and drips as soon as possible
- Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth
- Having shorter showers

# 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 'In the bathroom' 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 "In the bathroom" is:

### Basin taps:

- Flow rate of 6 litres per minute or less at 3 bar pressure – this flow rate has been identified by the [Unified Water Label](#) as its higher 'green' band.
  - Please note there is also related criteria in the green star 'Heating at home' factsheet for 'cold start' taps.
  - If a tap has a water break (allowing a lower flow rinse mode and higher flow fill mode), the rinse mode should be 6 litres or less at 3 bar pressure and the fill mode (beyond the water break) should be 8 litres or less at 3 bar pressure.

### Showers:

- Flow rate of 8 litres per minute or less at 3 bar pressure – this flow rate has been identified by the [Unified Water Label](#) as its lower 'green' band.

### Toilets:

- Average flush of 3.5 litres or less, based on a ratio of 3 short flushes to 1 full flush for dual flush toilets.
  - For the UK, the Water Supply (Water Fitting Regulations) 1999 prohibited new toilets that used more than 6 litres per flush being installed. But, [the Energy Saving Trust](#) estimated that 42% of toilets in British homes were installed before 2001 and may have a significantly higher flush volume.



- [Le Centre d'Information sur l'Eau](#) has estimated that in French homes, the average flush uses 9 litres of water.

#### Fixing drips and leaks:

- Tools and equipment for repairing dripping taps:
  - Tap reseating tools
  - Tap washers
  - Replacement ceramic glands
- Tools and equipment for repairing leaking toilets:
  - Replacement siphons and valves

**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 Baths with a capacity of over 200 litres:

- ✘ Showers with a flow rate of more than 12 litres per minute at 3 bar pressure.
- ✘ Electric showers with an energy label B rating or lower.
- ✘ Basin taps with a flow rate of more than 8 litres per minute at 3 bar pressure.
- ✘ Toilets with an average flush volume greater than 4.5 litres (based on the ratio of 1 long flush to 3 short flushes for dual flush toilets).
- ✘ 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 where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.





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Fact sheet:

# In the garden



## What it means to choose a green star product

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### Why choosing efficient garden products matter

Households tend to use much less water outdoors compared to the amount used in bathrooms and kitchens. [Le Centre d'Information sur L'Eau](#) estimates that just 6% of domestic water is used for outdoor tasks, such as washing cars and gardening. During dry periods, the demand for water increases and the amount of water and time we spend watering our gardens become more significant. During the 2022 drought, [Water UK found that the peak demand for water increased by 40%](#).

When we use mains water in our gardens, we're using high-quality drinking water. Bringing mains water to our homes uses energy and there's leakage in its distribution. Switching to rainwater - by using a water butt, for example - can help decrease water bills (if water is metered). There are also tools, like water butt pumps and suction hoses for pressure washers, that enable rainwater to be used for cleaning outdoors, as well as for watering. The [RHS has advice](#) on using stored rainwater safely.

There are ways to help soil retain more water during dry spells. Applying a mulch over the surface of bare, moist soil can help minimise evaporation. Mulching mowers can help turf retain more water – they apply a fine mulch of shredded grass clippings to the lawn as you mow. Adding more organic content (for example, manure or peat-free soil conditioner) to soil can help, too.

How we use water outdoors can also help manage water use:

- Directly watering the roots of plants
- Watering plants in the evening, especially during hot weather
- Ensuring outside taps are protected from freezing to prevent them from bursting

# 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 'saving water at home – in the garden' 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 'saving water at home – in the garden' is:

### Products that enable rainwater use:

- Water butts and rain barrels
- Water butt accessories, including:
  - Rainwater diverters for downpipes
  - Water butt stands
  - Spare taps for water butts
  - Water butt pumps
  - Suction hoses for pressure washers
- Rainwater irrigation kits and related products.

### Mulch:

- Mulch for use over soils, including bark chippings

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## Watch List Criteria relevant to controlling energy in home

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

- ✘ Swimming pools, spa pools and hot tubs.
- ✘ Lawn sprinklers.
- ✘ Products that contain any wood 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.
- ✘ Recycled plastic products where the source of the plastic is unknown and/or cannot be confirmed as being safe.
- ✘ Products containing peat.
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.





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Fact sheet:

# In the kitchen



## 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 products matters

The [Energy Saving Trust estimates that kitchens use 22% of a household's water](#). Using kitchen taps for preparing food and cleaning uses water. When using hot water, it's also using energy, so choosing energy-efficient taps can help to manage energy bills.

Kitchen appliances, such as dishwashers and washing machines, feature an energy label with information on the appliance's water use.

Dripping taps can also waste a surprisingly large amount of water. [Waterwise has found that a single dripping tap](#) could waste 5,500 litres of water per year. For hot water taps, this could also mean wasted energy. Fixing a tap can be as simple as replacing the tap washer or gland.

How we use water in the kitchen can also help manage water use, for example:

- Repairing leaks and drips as soon as possible
- Waiting for a full load before setting washing machines and dishwashers running.
- Using a plug or washing up bowl when washing up
- Using a washing up bowl when preparing vegetables, emptying the water into the garden afterwards (and composting any peelings)

For drinking water, avoid using bottled water and opt for tap water instead. Bottled water costs considerably more and plastic bottles can have additional problems relating to waste and pollution.

# Criteria 1:

## How we assess green star products



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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 'Saving water at home – in the kitchen' 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 'Saving water at home – in the kitchen' is

### **Kitchen taps:**

- Flow rate of 6 litres per minute or less at 3 bar pressure - this flow rate has been identified by the [Unified Water Label](#) as its lower 'green' band.
  - If a tap has a water break (allowing a lower flow rinse mode and higher flow fill mode), the rinse mode should be 6 litres or less at 3 bar pressure and the fill mode (beyond the water break) should be 8 litres or less at 3 bar pressure.
- Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Heating at home' factsheet for 'cold start' taps.

### **Fixing drips and leaks:**

- Tools and equipment for repairing dripping taps:
  - Tap reseating tools
  - Tap washers
  - Replacement ceramic glands.

Please note, there is also related criteria in the green star 'Kitchen appliances' factsheet for dishwashers and washing machines.

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

This criteria lists features of products that make them unsuitable for green star assessment:

- ✘ Kitchen taps with a flow rate of more than 8 litres per minute at 3 bar pressure.
- ✘ 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 where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.

