



Extending product  
life cycles\*

Fact sheet:

# Rechargeable batteries



**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 rechargeable batteries matter

Batteries are made using heavy metals including lead, mercury, cadmium, zinc, manganese and lithium, metals that can be toxic but that can also be recycled. Disposable batteries can be recycled, but in [2017, it was estimated that in the UK, there may be 178 million batteries stored. 229 000 tonnes of portable batteries were sold in the EU in 2020 but only 99 000 tonnes of used portable batteries were collected for recycling.](#)

As well as ensuring that single use batteries are recycled responsibly, another way to address battery waste is to switch to rechargeable batteries. Recharging means that these batteries can be reused many times before becoming waste.

## Criteria 1:

### How we assess Green Star products

Every product should 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 'Rechargeable Batteries' assessment focuses on the in-use phase of the product's life cycle as it can help to prolong use of a battery before it reaches its end-of-life phase..

## Criteria 2:

### Green star programme entry

The criteria for rechargeable batteries are:

- Rechargeable batteries, designed to replace single use batteries.
  - Batteries designed for uses where single use batteries would not be used are excluded. For example, a battery sold as part of a cordless drill or sold as a spare part for a cordless drill would not be included.
  - The rechargeable batteries included in another product (for example, in a torch) are not included.
  - Rechargeable batteries sold with a charging unit are included.

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

### Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✔ All products nominated are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation. Assessments and validation aim to establish if a product meets Criteria 1 and 2. To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)
- ✔ 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.

### Watch List Criteria relevant to rechargeable batteries

These criteria highlight product features that make them unsuitable for green star assessment:

- ✘ Single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ Products supplied with single-use disposable batteries
- ✘ 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.

Checked July 2025.

