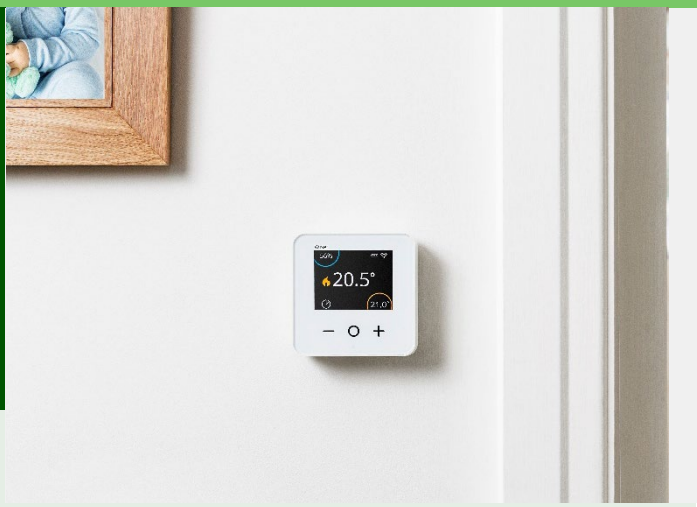
Saving energy at home*

Kingfisher

Fact sheet:

Controlling energy use at home



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

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, Animal Welfare and Sustainable Packaging.

If a product does not meet all relevant legal requirements and all relevant Kingfisher policies, it cannot be assessed for the green star product mark.

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 criteria 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' are:

- **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
      - 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.
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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.
- Once the external validation is complete, 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 controlling energy at home

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.

Checked July 2025