



Saving water  
at home\*

Kingfisher

Fact sheet:

# Saving water 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 saving water in the bathroom 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



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 'saving water 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 green star 'saving water in the bathroom' assessment is based on a product meeting one of the following criteria:

- **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.
  - Where a shower has more than one head, the higher flow head is assessed.
- **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 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 saving water in the bathroom

These criteria specify features of products that make them unsuitable for Green Star assessment:

- ✘ Baths with a capacity of over 200 litres.
- ✘ 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 wood, paper, 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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