

# BUYERS GUIDE

## Energy Efficiency

 euronics






### Quotidien

- 1  Coton pré-lavage
- 2  Coton 60°
- 3  Coton 40°
- 4  Synthétique 60°
- 5  Mix 15'




A  Rinçage

### Spécial

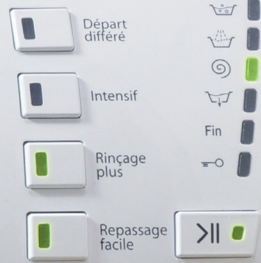
- 6  Anti-bactérien 90°
- 7  Bonne Nuit
- 8  Chemises
- 9  Soie/Voilages 30°
- 10  Laine 40°

B  Essorage

### Eco

- 11  Coton
- 12  Synthétique
- 13  Rapide 30'

C  Vidange



Marche/Pause

## INTRODUCTION

There are lots of decisions to make when you're purchasing a new appliance, such as the size, brand, and colour. However, energy efficiency is an important factor that you should also consider. An efficient model will not only reduce your carbon footprint, but it can help you save money in the long term too.

It can be hard to know how to find the most energy efficient appliance, but we'll explain everything clearly, so you know exactly what to take into account.

This buyers guide will tell you everything you need to know about energy efficient appliances. Read on to find out more.

“ An efficient model will not only reduce your carbon footprint, but it can help you save money in the long term too.



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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELS



The EU introduced energy efficiency labels to help Europe reduce its energy consumption and carbon footprint. The Government has predicted that these labels will save the UK's economy an approximate net amount of £850 million.

Read on to find out more about these labels.

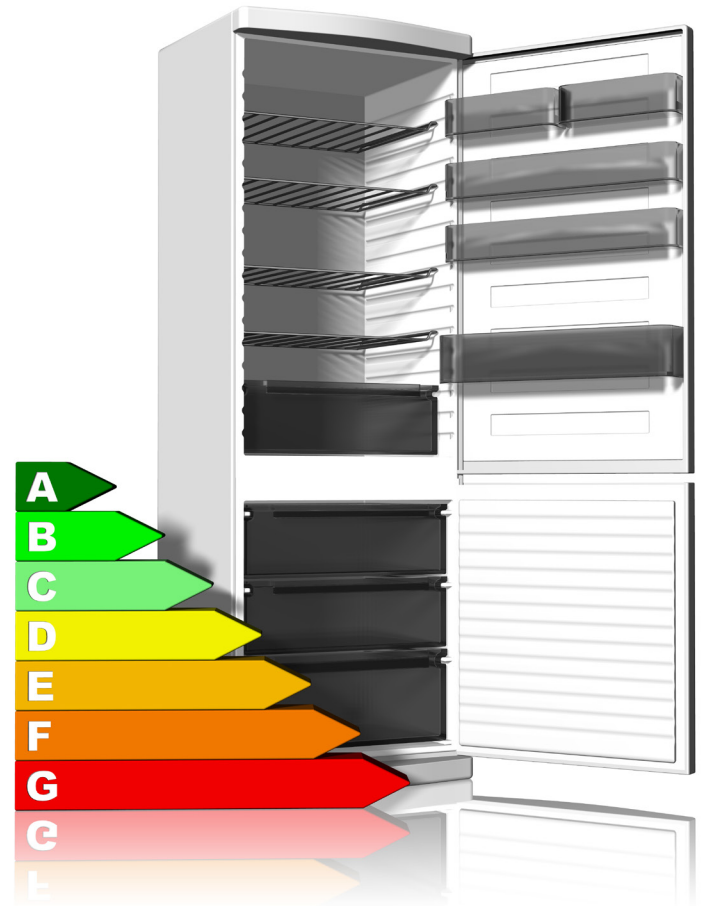


## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

It is now a legal requirement for retailers to display an efficiency label on a range of household appliances. Some of the products that require a label are:

- Washing Machines
- Tumble Dryers
- Fridges
- Freezers
- Dishwashers
- Electric Ovens
- Televisions

“ It is now a legal requirement for retailers to display an efficiency label on a range of appliances.



## WHAT DO THE LABELS MEAN?

Energy labels may seem confusing at first, but they are simple to understand when you know what everything means.

Each appliance goes through rigorous testing to make sure it meets EU regulations and is then given a rating. The ratings have a grade and a colour so that you can see a summary at a glance.

The colour of each grade runs from green, the best, to red, the worst. And, the grades range from A+++, most efficient, through to G, least efficient. When the energy efficiency label was first introduced, it only ran from A – G. But as technology has improved, appliances have become more efficient, so the higher ratings have been introduced for the best models.

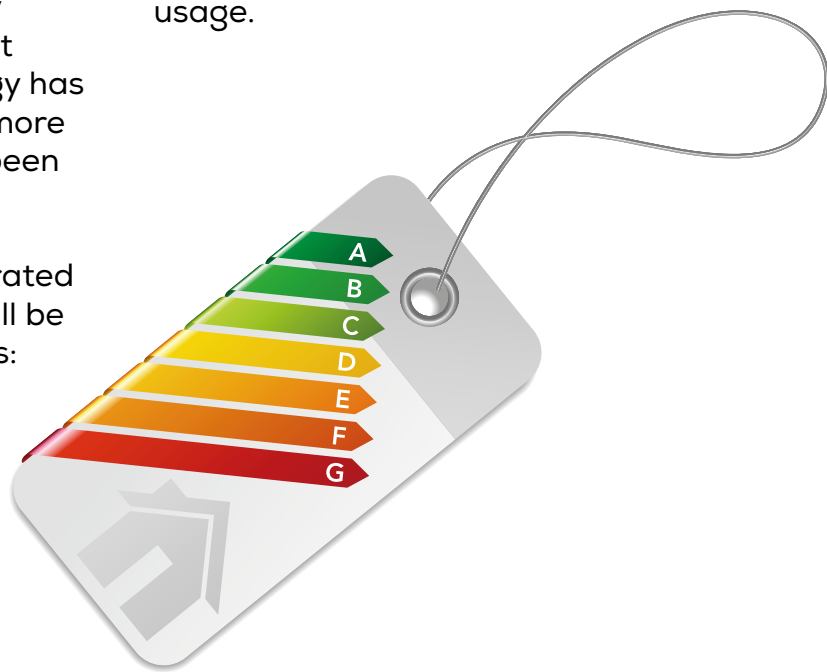
Because so many products are now rated A+ and above, these high rankings will be phased out for the following products:

- Fridges
- Dishwashers
- Washing Machines
- TVs
- Lamps

The new system will use the original A – G rankings to make it simpler to understand.

As well as the grade, the label displays other useful information. For example, the label for a washing machine shows noise levels, water consumption, and drum capacity.

On each appliance, you'll also see the total annual energy consumption. However, you do need to bear in mind that the actual consumption does depend on your specific usage.

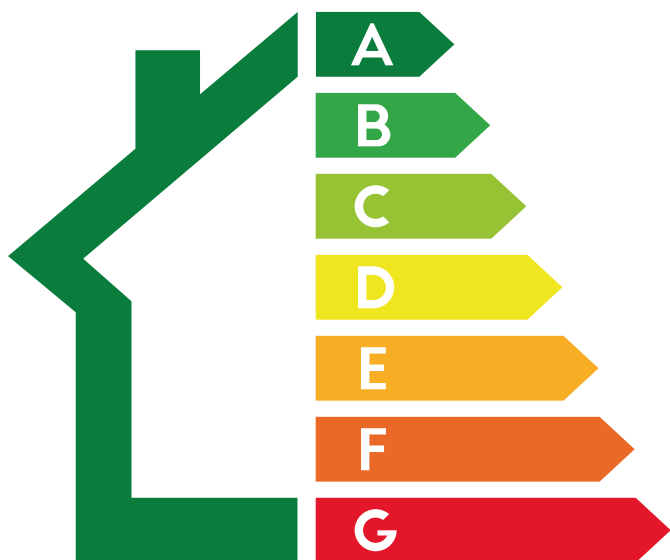




## EU REGULATIONS

EU regulations set the standards for energy efficiency. For example, washing machines must now have a rating of A or above. So, even if you pick an appliance with the lowest grading (within regulations), you can still be confident that it will be fairly efficient.

You may also see a few models with lower grades for sale, which were made before the new regulations were introduced.



## THINGS TO CONSIDER

Although the energy efficiency label gives you a good idea about your appliance's energy consumption, it can also be slightly misleading.

For example, similar appliances could have the same energy efficiency rating, but it doesn't mean that they'll use the same amount of energy – we'll go into this further later in the guide.

Something else to consider is that the product may have been tested in a way that isn't similar to how you'll use it. The EU test washing machines on full and partial 60°C cotton loads, and a 40°C partial cotton load, but, you probably won't use a 60°C cycle that often. As a result, the figure could be higher than you would expect.

“As well as the grade, the label displays other useful information.”



## SAVE ENERGY AROUND THE HOME



We all want to save a little money where we can, and energy efficient appliances are a great way to do this. If you want to go the extra mile, there are other ways to reduce energy too. This section will give you a few handy energy-saving tips.



## BATTERIES

Rechargeable batteries are energy efficient because you can use them multiple times.

They are available in most sizes and are suitable for smaller devices like remote controls or larger devices like battery-powered radios.

## TURN OFF STANDBY

Leaving appliances on standby always seems like the easiest option. It can be a hassle to remember to turn everything off at the plug socket – but doing this could save you quite a lot of money.

The Energy Savings Trust showed that each household in the UK spends around £50 to £86 a year powering standby devices. So, it is worth taking those few extra steps to switch them off properly.

You could purchase a standby saver, which lets you turn off all your devices with one remote.



When we leave our TVs and games consoles on standby, it can cost between £50-£86 a year.



## OTHER TIPS AND TRICKS

There are lots of other things you can do to save some energy with your appliances. Here are just a few examples:

**Kettles** – If you are making a cup of tea, only boil the water you need.

**Electric hobs** – When you cook on the electric hob, use the correct ring size for the saucepan, so that there's no excess heat. Always put a lid on to retain the temperature.

**Microwaves** – Microwaves are much more efficient at cooking than ovens, so avoid using your oven when possible.

**White goods** – Fill your white goods, like fridges or washing machines, to full capacity.

**Washing machine** – With clothes that aren't particularly dirty, try a 30° wash instead of a 40° wash. Look out for models with sensor cycles as these only use the required amount of water and detergent for each load.

**Fridge freezer** – Make sure your fridge freezer is frost free. Many appliances come with technology to prevent ice build-up.

**Tumble dryer** – If you use your tumble dryer frequently, clean the lint filter after each use.

## BE SMART

Energy companies are trying to help us save money where we can. Smart meters are being rolled out across the country to make UK households more energy efficient.

These meters come with a display monitor which updates your energy consumption minute by minute – it can even tell you how much it costs to boil the kettle. You'll also see a difference if you switch off appliances at the plug instead of leaving them on standby. These can help you to use energy at a time when it is cheaper too.

Or, there's smart heating control, which lets you regulate your heating system via the internet, on a tablet or smartphone. This will let you know the most efficient way to heat your home.





## BUYING NEW APPLIANCES



When you are buying a new appliance, there are quite a few considerations to think about, especially when it comes to energy efficiency. Think about your future needs and pick the right capacity for your needs, as this can help you choose the most efficient appliance.



## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

It's important that you look at the technical specifications of the appliance, as well as the energy rating. This will let you know more about potential running costs. As mentioned before, two appliances could have the same energy rating, but consume different amounts of energy.

For example, a compact undercounter fridge and an American style fridge freezer might both have an A+ efficiency rating. However, the American style fridge freezer will have higher annual running costs as it has a larger capacity.

The estimated annual consumption will give you a good idea of how much the model costs to run. This should help you choose the most efficient appliance for your requirements.

“White goods work most efficiently when they're used to their full capacity.”

## PICK THE RIGHT SIZE

Picking an appliance that's the right size for your needs means you won't use an excessive amount of energy. White goods like washing machines and tumble dryers work most efficiently when they're running at full capacity.

The same is true for cooling appliances, as fridges and freezers are designed to cool every shelf evenly. If you have a large fridge, but you don't use all the space, you'll use more electricity than needed.

## THE LONG TERM

We all like to save a bit of money where we can, but buying the cheapest appliance on sale isn't always the best advice.

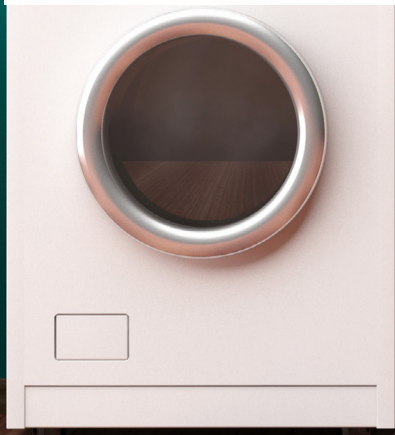
Cheaper appliances tend to be less efficient than expensive models, as they usually don't have the same advanced technology. It might be tempting to go for the cheaper option, but buying a more expensive model could save you money in the long run.



## ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES



This section looks at specific appliances in more detail, so you know which features to check. As we've mentioned before, it may be worth paying more for an efficient model to save money in the future.



## FRIDGES AND FREEZERS

It's important that your fridge or freezer runs as efficiently as possible because these appliances are always running. The law now requires that all new models of fridge and freezer have an energy efficiency rating of at least A+. Retailers can still sell older models, so you may see appliances with lower grades.

The efficiency label displays other information like storage volume and noise levels.

## WASHING MACHINES

EU Regulations now specify that all new models of washing machine should have an efficiency rating of A or above. The efficiency label also shows information like water consumption, capacity, and noise levels. Your energy consumption will depend on how often you use the washing machine.

Some washing machines have an Eco mode, which makes your wash cycle run more efficiently. You can also find models with sensor technology, which use the right amount of water and energy for each specific load.

## TUMBLE DRYERS

It's commonly known that tumble dryers can be expensive to use. Drying your clothes on the washing line takes longer, but it will save you money.

Tumble dryers have efficiency grades between A+++ and D, so you'll find that there's a lot of variety. The energy efficiency label also displays further information on annual energy consumption, drum capacity, and noise levels.

Gas powered tumble dryers are starting to become more popular and are cheaper to run, which is something to consider when you make your decision.





## DISHWASHERS

Depending on the efficiency rating, dishwashers can be cheaper than washing up by hand. Similar to washing machines, many models will feature an Eco mode. Any dishwashers manufactured now are required to have an efficiency rating of A+++ to D. The label also shows you information about capacity, water consumption, and noise levels.

## OVENS AND HOBS

Ovens come with energy ratings between A+++ and D. The energy efficiency varies depending on size, so each oven compartment has its own efficiency label. The label also shows how much energy is required per heating cycle.

Gas ovens are another option to consider, as gas is cheaper to use, which could potentially save you money.

Currently, hobs don't have energy labels, but induction models are the most efficient. However, their efficiency makes them expensive in the short term, and you'll need to purchase iron-based pans.



“ Depending on its efficiency rating, a dishwasher can be cheaper than washing up by hand.



## TELEVISIONS

We can spend a lot of time using TVs without realising how much they cost to run. So it's important to consider energy efficiency when you're buying a new television.

LED screens are quickly replacing LCD screens, and they use less energy too. So, if you have a smaller budget, you can still purchase an efficient television. OLED and QLED TVs also use an LCD display, but as these models feature higher-end technology, they tend to come at a higher price.

“LED screens are quickly replacing LCD screens, and they use less energy too.”

## NO LABEL?

There are appliances we regularly use, such as kettles, microwaves, and toasters, which currently do not have an energy efficiency label. In the future, the EU is aiming to put the energy labels on more appliances, which will help us become even more efficient.



## DISPOSING OF OLD APPLIANCES



It's important that you dispose of your unwanted electrical items correctly. In 2007, the UK's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulation allowed members of the public to deposit old electrical and electronic items free of charge.





## UNWANTED ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

You should always check the disposal label to make sure the item can go with regular household waste. There are also some more environmentally-friendly disposal ideas below.

### STORE TAKE BACK SCHEME

If you're replacing an old appliance, regulations state that the retailer has to help with the old model's disposal. A customer adviser can organise this for you, or they can provide you with the information to arrange an alternative service.

### RECYCLING

Recycling is the most environmentally-friendly method of disposal. Some recycling centres take a selection of electrical goods, but it's best to check with your local centre beforehand. You find out which appliances your centre takes [here](#).

### DONATE OR REPAIR

You can donate unwanted smaller appliances to charity as long as they're in good working order. If the appliance isn't working, try getting it repaired because this may work out cheaper than buying a replacement.

You can find more information about how to dispose of your unwanted appliances in our [how to guide](#).

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