



Fact sheet:

Air pollution at home



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 air pollution inside homes matters

Indoor air pollution [can be linked to health issues](#). There are many contributors to poor indoor air quality including dust, fumes from cooking, gas and solid fuel burning, tobacco smoke, mould spores, chemicals and pet dander. Ventilation and addressing the causes of pollution [can help to improve indoor air quality](#).

This fact sheet focuses on three contributing factors:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), emitted by paints, household cleaners, furnishings and furniture.
- Fumes from cooking.
- Fungal mould spores, arising from high humidity.

In the mid-1990s, B&Q started to label paints to show customers the level of VOCs that are emitted. In France, it is compulsory to show the VOC rating on many home improvement products. The levels of VOCs have been reduced as the paint industry moves away from solvent bases.

Damp conditions can result in mould growing in homes. Damp can arise from poor building design, lack of damp proofing and poor ventilation. Dehumidifying can also help to address the problem.

Cooking releases moisture and particulates. [Cooking with gas can also emit NOx pollutants and carbon monoxide](#). Switching to an induction hob will help to address some pollutants and using a cooker hood can extract a wide range of pollutants as well as steam.

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 'air pollution at home' 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 'air pollution at home' is:

- Paints and wood treatments with a volatile organic compound rating of "Trace"
- Cooker hoods (including range hoods).
 - These should also be A+ rated or better (based on the energy label for energy efficiency).
- Dehumidifiers.
 - These should also be energy efficient to use:
 - For dehumidifier with a daily capacity of 35 litres or less, litres per kilowatt hour should be greater than or equal to 2. The dehumidifier should also have a humidistat.
 - For dehumidifier with a daily capacity between 35 and 87 litres, litres per kilowatt hour should be greater than or equal to 2.8. The dehumidifier should also have a humidistat.
 - Excludes chemical dehumidifiers.

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 air pollution

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

- ✘ 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
- ✘ Cooker hoods with an energy rating of B or lower.
- ✘ Products supplied with non-LED lighting
- ✘ Appliances with a [L'Indice de Réparabilité](#) (Repairability Index) score of six or lower.
- ✘ Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.
- ✘ Products containing glitter where the glitter can enter the environment.
- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.

