

Save time and energy Appliances save time, but at a cost to the environment. Dishwashers and washing machines use energy to run motors and heat air and water, and they use detergents that can pollute the water. Refrigerators, on the other hand, have internal fluids and insulation that can cause harm to the ozone layer. All appliances affect the environment, but some less than others. Those bearing the European Eco-label:

- use less energy than standard products;
- use water more efficiently; and
- have manufacturer guarantees for extended operation and parts availability.

Appliances bearing the Flower treat the earth with kid gloves throughout their entire **life cycle** (see diagram), from construction to disposal. Not only that, they perform among the best in their category. Simply said, Eco-labeled goods are better by nature.



The European Eco-label

distinguishes products that meet high standards of both performance and environmental quality. Every product awarded the European Eco-label must pass rigorous environmental fitness trials, with results verified by an independent body.

Other environmental labels cover specific environmental concerns such as recyclability or energy efficiency, but the Flower of the European Eco-label stands for low environmental impacts throughout a product's life cycle — from manufacturing to disposal. Consumers can find it across the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Criteria exist for more than 23 types of products and services, with new categories continuously being adopted. The Flower adorns, among other items, environmentally friendly appliances, clothing, gardening products and tourist accommodations.

Look for the Flower!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Your national Competent Body:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/tools/competentbodies_en.htm
 General information on the Flower: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>
 The Green Store: www.eco-label.com
 The European Eco-label on tourism services: <http://www.eco-label-tourism.com>



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The choice for **health** and **value**



Washing machines and dishwashers

Environmental advantages

- The manufacturer must take back expired machines, free of charge, for recycling.
- The manufacturer must also offer free recycling of parts replaced by himself or certified repair shops, with limited exceptions.
- For washing machines, water consumption must be limited to 12 litres per kilogram of wash load.
- Marked detergent dispensers help to avoid detergent waste by making dosage easy.

- Eco-labelled washing machines can use detergents that work well at cooler temperatures.
- Separate settings for small and large loads help optimise detergent and water use.
- Eco-labelled dishwashers have a low-salt setting for households with softer water.

You can cut your water bill by 40%, compared to less efficient machines on the market.

Energy savings

- Washing machines must have an EU Energy Efficiency of at least A, meaning they use about half the energy as less efficient products.
- Special cycles for difficult and easy wash loads allow for even better energy and water savings.
- Eco-labelled dishwashers must have a high efficiency rating, meaning electricity savings of at least 23%.

Eco-labelled refrigerators use 60% less electricity than less efficient products on the market.

Refrigerators

Environmental advantages

- Liquids in the refrigerating circuit and foaming agents used for insulation must not harm the ozone layer.
- Materials must have minimal effect on global warming.
- If 5% of the refrigerators sold in Europe every year met the European Eco-label criteria, the energy savings would lead to a decrease of carbon dioxide emissions of 74,850 tonnes — the equivalent of a car circling the earth 11,500 times.
- Where used, cardboard packaging for refrigerators must contain at least 80% recycled material.

Energy savings

- Eco-labelled refrigerators must have an EU Energy Efficiency rating of A+ or A++, meaning they consume 60% less electricity compared to less efficient products.



BETTER FOR YOUR HEALTH

- Appliances with the Flower run more quietly than other brands, including clothes washers on the spin cycle.
- Larger plastic parts are strictly limited in their content of flame retardants that can harm unborn babies or pose risks of cancer or other diseases.



BETTER FOR YOUR WALLET

- The manufacturer guarantees that the unit will work for at least two years, and that spare parts will be available at least 12 years after production of the model ceases.
- Eco-labelled dishwashers and washing machines can substantially reduce your water bill.
- Washing machines sporting the Flower must rate among the best when it comes to spin-drying effectiveness.
- Dishwashers must earn a high cleaning performance rating, verified through three independent washing trials. Drying performance must meet the same standard.
- All Eco-labelled appliances include user instructions for optimising performance and energy efficiency.
- Separate settings for small and large loads help optimise detergent and water use.
- Eco-labelled dishwashers have low-salt settings and salt-level indicators, enabling savings in softening salts and detergent.

Replacement parts must continue to be available 12 years from the time that production ceases.