

Helping you to choose energy-efficient appliances for your home

Manufacturers have spent millions of pounds in recent years making their fridges, freezers, washing machines and other appliances far more energy efficient. The energy labelling system for these appliances has now been revised to new EU standards and carries a lot of useful information that shows how well different products perform.

The Label ...

The new label will help you to purchase the most energy-efficient appliance you can afford today, to save you a lot of money over time and also help to reduce greenhouse gases.

Understanding the new label

A single-colour label is supplied by the manufacturer with symbols instead of text, so there is no need to translate and the same label can be used anywhere in the EU.

Almost all electrical appliances with the new label are now at least 'A' rated so appliances have taken quite a big leap in energy efficiency.

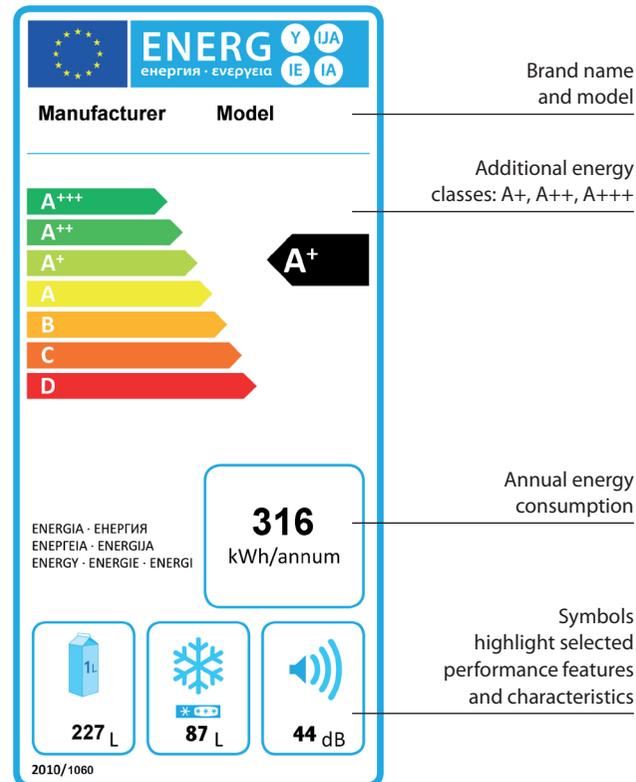
Most labels still have the familiar seven classification bands, from dark green to red. However, A+, A++ and A+++ have been added to the original A to G classification scheme, so that A+++ is now best and D now the worst classification in terms of energy efficiency. **As before, the greener the arrow the lower the appliance's energy consumption.**

The noise level of each appliance is also indicated on the label.

Washing machines and dishwashers placed on the market since 20 December 2011 must be supplied with their new labels. Fridges and freezers had an earlier deadline of 30 November 2011.

Elements common to all the new labels

The large label shown here is the new version introduced in 2011 for domestic fridges and freezers.



This new label is a fridge freezer label.

Depending on the appliance, the number of energy class strips and/or symbols can change

Your guide to the symbols ...

Fridge & freezer label

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 316 kWh/annum | Annual energy consumption in kWh |  87 L | Capacity of frozen food storage compartments in litres |
|  227 L | Capacity of fridge storage compartments in litres |  44 dB | Noise emissions in decibels |

Dishwasher label

| | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 249 kWh/annum | Annual energy consumption in kWh – based on 280 standard cleaning cycles |  x 9 | Capacity in standard place settings |
|  3640 L/annum | Annual water consumption in litres – based on 280 standard cleaning cycles |  52 dB | Noise emissions in decibels |
|  ABCDEFG | Drying efficiency class | | |

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Washing machine label

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  173 kWh/annum | Annual energy consumption in kWh |  ABCDEFG | Spin drying efficiency class. The relevant grade is shown enlarged and bold |
|  10340 L/annun | Annual water consumption in litres based on 220 washes a year |  53 dB | Noise emissions in decibels during washing – based on 60° cotton wash with full load |
|  6.0 kg | Capacity in kilograms |  74 dB | Noise emissions in decibels during spinning – based on 60° cotton programme with full load |

The label timetable ...

December 2011: The new EU Energy label for refrigerators, washing machines and dishwasher became mandatory for all new machines placed on the market.

From April 2012 the energy class of all of these appliances must be cited in all communication material where energy-related, price or technical information is disclosed.

Products with the new label will coexist and be displayed with products bearing the old label. Products placed on the market before December 2011 displaying the old label may still be sold without any time constraints.

Manufacturers

- Provide dealers with a new EU energy label with each product, free of charge
- Make available a product *fiche* (a list of information) with any literature that accompanies the product
- Are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.

Dealers

- Must attach in a clearly visible way, the supplied label on the outside of the front or top of the products displayed in the shops
- Make available the product *fiche* in any other literature that accompanies the product
- In the case of online sales or other form of distance selling, where the customer cannot see the product displayed, customers must be provided with the mandatory information before purchase.

You may also like to know ...

- After 1 July, 2012, all new fridge-freezers will have to have an Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) of less than 45. This will further reduce in 2014 to 42. While this does not relate directly to the grade specifications, it does essentially mean that all refrigerating appliances on the market will be at least A+.
- Electric tumble dryers, combined washer dryers and electric ovens still have the A-G label under their existing Directives. Until new regulations are published they will continue to use the same labels as they do at the moment.

- Regulations for vacuum cleaners and dryers are in the pipeline.
- In the UK the Energy Saving Trust (EST) has its 'Energy Saving Trust Recommended'. This voluntary scheme invites manufacturers to pay for an EST assessment and the scheme includes products that do not yet have an energy label. EST is also asking retailers to demand more energy efficient appliances.
- While the Labelling Directive sets standards for energy efficiency (plus other aspects such as noise and water use) the Ecodesign Directive aims to integrate environmental aspects into product design to improve environmental performances throughout their lifecycle.

Energy Saving Tips

Go for the energy guzzlers

The greatest energy and cost savings usually come from replacing the devices that use most energy over the full year. Old freezers and fridges are usually the worst offenders. Replacing a ten-year-old fridge freezer can practically halve your energy spend and replacing an older model can cut £100 a year from your electricity bill. Replacing ageing washing appliances can save both electricity and water.

Check how much you could save by clicking the age of your old appliance on <http://www.t2c.org.uk/calculator/>

The information contained in this leaflet is not legally binding and is for general information purposes only. It is provided by AMDEA (The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances) for the guidance of UK consumers. The information should not be regarded as final. The specific layout and content of the new labelling scheme described is prescribed by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States.