

Although 'fully integrated' under-counter appliances such as ovens, refrigerators and dishwashers, are always more expensive than free-standing equivalents, the aesthetic advantage of having matching door fronts on an unbroken plinth line cannot be over-emphasised. How many otherwise attractive kitchens has one seen ruined by the one white-fronted appliance looking like a bad tooth with dirt-catching gaps alongside, spoiling the whole effect.

## Energy labels

In 1994, the EU introduced *energy labels* which by law must be displayed on all electric ovens, dishwashers and cooling appliances (also washing machines, tumble driers, air conditioners and lamps). The virtue of this system is that it persuades the consumer to buy the most energy efficient appliances that will save running costs while at the same time protecting the environment.

In addition to this label, there is also the *Energy Star* which is primarily designed for office equipment. This shows that the product is capable of monitoring as to how often it is used, and, if not much activity is taking place, going into sleep mode thus keeping energy costs down.

There is also the *Energy Efficiency Recommended* label run by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) which is a quick way to identify energy efficient appliances. This logo indicates not only that the product is 'A' rated on the EU energy label but also that the EST conducts spot checks to ensure the classification is correct.

The *Eco-flower*, not yet very often found, may also be displayed. This means the product has been independently assessed and confirmed that it meets strict environmental criteria.

<b>Energy</b>		Fridge
Manufacturer	<b>BOSCH</b>	
Model	KIL 24443 GB	
<b>More efficient</b>		
<b>A</b>		
<b>B</b>		
<b>C</b>		
<b>D</b>		
<b>E</b>		
<b>F</b>		
<b>G</b>	<b>Less efficient</b>	
Energy Consumption kWh/cycle <small>(based on standard test results for 24h)</small>	<b>237</b>	
<small>Actual energy consumption will depend on how the appliance is used, and where it is located.</small>		
Fresh Food Volume L	181	
Frozen Food Volume	17	
Noise (dB(A) re 1 pW)		
<small>Further information is contained in product brochures.</small>		
<small>Norm: EN 153 August 1994 Revised Label Directive 94/2/EC</small>		



Energy Efficiency Recommended label



Eco-flower

EU Energy label

## Sinks

More time is spent at the sink than anywhere else in the kitchen. Even with the advent of dishwashers, most food preparation is undertaken in, or next to, the sink.

If possible, position the sink under or near a window to get good daylight and a view. This is also useful as the gully for the waste pipes will be on an outside wall and therefore will minimise waste pipe runs.