**SCREWFIX OPENS ITS ANNUAL ‘TOP TRADESPERSON’ AWARDS TO IRISH MARKET WITH A €20,000 PRIZE BUNDLE**

*The 2020 awards will celebrate the outstanding work and professionalism shown by tradespeople across Ireland and the UK*

**17th August 2020:** Leading omnichannel retailer, Screwfix, has announced that it will open its annual ‘Screwfix Top Tradesperson 2020’ awards to the Irish market on August 17th with entries being accepted online until the 30th of August. Search Screwfix Top Tradesperson to apply.

As a first of its kind in Ireland, the competition will not only celebrate the outstanding work and professionalism shown by tradespeople throughout the year, but will also crown a winner who will walk away with a €20K bundle including high spec tools, the latest technology to boost their trade and training to support their ongoing development. The worthy winner will prove to be a standout candidate in their trade, an innovative thinker and a professional who goes above and beyond for their customers.

Now in its 11th year, ‘Screwfix Top Tradesperson’ is a staple competition in the calendar for thousands of UK tradespeople. The expansion into Ireland comes after a strong year from the leading retailer with five store openings in Sandyford, Swords, Waterford, Ennis, and Kilkenny, plus two new stores set to open in Galway and Finglas this September.

Speaking about the launch of ‘Screwfix Top Tradesperson’, John Mewett, CEO of Screwfix, said; “Screwfix has been well received by the Irish trade industry ever since we opened our doors. Even during lockdown, our essential hardware stores remained open and this allowed us to see first-hand how busy Irish tradespeople were, many of whom play a crucial role in keeping homes warm, safe and with power. The past few months have been hugely challenging for everyone and our customers have had to adapt to new ways of working on site to keep themselves and their customers safe.

We want to thank and reward tradespeople for everything they do and especially for their efforts over the last few months. To do this, we are extending our annual awards to Ireland for the first time to find ‘Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson’. The competition, which will run throughout Ireland and the UK, recognises those who go above and beyond for their customers, the industry, and their communities. As previous winners show, winning the accolade can have a positive impact on their business, so it’s definitely worth entering!”

The ‘Screwfix Top Tradesperson’ awards come at a time when home improvements and maintenance projects are at an all-time high among Irish homeowners.

According to research undertaken independently on behalf of Screwfix, more than two thirds (69 per cent) of Irish homeowners are either currently involved in a home improvement or maintenance project or are planning one within the next 12 months. Tradespeople across Ireland are working on, or will be working on, a variety of projects including garden maintenance, which is a focus for 59 per cent of homeowners. Tradespeople are also supporting more than half (56 per cent) of homeowners whose plans include decorating interior walls or ceilings. Other trade projects undertaken are house maintenance or repairs - a focus for 55 per cent of homeowners - and decorating exteriors, which is a priority for 45 per cent.

‘Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson’ is a competition which runs across Ireland and the UK. One exceptional winner will win the profile-boosting accolade and €20,000 trade bundle. Entries for ‘Screwfix’s Top Tradesperson’ are open until 30 August 2020. To find out more and to enter, please search Screwfix Top Tradesperson

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

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**Notes to Editors:**

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with over 1,300 stores in 9 countries across Europe, Russia, and Turkey, supported by a team of over 77,000 colleagues. It operates under retail brands including B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt, Screwfix and Koçtaş. It offers home improvement products and services to nearly six million consumers and trade professionals who shop in its stores and through its digital channels every week.

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and affordably priced, helping its trade customers get the job done quickly, affordably, and right first time. Tradespeople in Ireland can shop 24,000 products, online or in-person from their local store.

* From power tools and work wear, to plumbing and electrical, Screwfix offers over 10,000 products available to pick up from our stores.
* Over 24,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with Free Delivery to home or site on order over €50.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service, which enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online.
* World leading customer satisfaction levels.
* Screwfix was awarded in the A-Z of Recognised Retailers in the Retail Top 100 Movers & Shakers Report 2019.
* Screwfix has expanded from an online only business to having stores right here in Ireland with big plans to open stores across the country.
* See <https://www.screwfix.ie/stores> for store opening information, as the stores are open every day.
* For more information about Screwfix please visit our media centre: [www.screwfixmedia.com](http://www.screwfixmedia.com)